

Curriculum Unit Planning Sheet

The topic of my curriculum unit is:

Soil

The “Big Ideas” I want to explore within this topic are:

What is soil and why is it important?
What things live in soil and what does soil need to live?
What is soil used for?
Why is soil important to so many living things?
How can we protect the soil?

The five sub-topics of my curriculum unit are:

What is soil?	What lives in the soil? What needs soil to live?	Why is soil important to plants, insects and animals?	How do we use soil?	How can we protect the soil?
<p>15 books (3 in each sub-topic) that will support learning and connect with the Big Ideas in my topic/sub-topic. Search for books using Google, New York Public Library catalog (http://www.nypl.org/), or Brooklyn Public Library (http://www.bklynlibrary.org/):</p>				
Title: Soil - First Step: Let's Look at Earth Author: Natalie Rosinsky	Title: Just a Worm Author: Marie Boyd	Title: Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt Author: Kate Messner	Title: From Seed to Pumpkin Author: Wendy Pfeffer	Title: Sally and the Soil Author: Sandra Madera
Title: Tops and Bottoms Author: Janet Stevens	Title: Yucky Worms Author: Vivian French	Title: Joy Takes Root Author: Gwendolyn Wallace	Title: A Green Kid's Guide to Watering Plants Author: Richard Lay	Title: From Seed to Plant Author: Gail Gibbons
Title: The Dinosaur Garden Author: Nicholas Oldland	Title: Anywhere Farm Author: Phyllis Root	Title: A Seed Grows Author: Antoinette Portis	Title: My Delicious Garden Author: Anne Marie Fortin	Title: Compost Stew Author: Mary Siddals

15 creative arts/literacy extension activities (3 in each sub-topic) that (1) connect with the books I am using and (2) support students in learning sub-topic. Make sure to include a mix of visual arts (drawing, painting, collage, sculpture) and performing arts (music, theater, dance/creative movement) in each sub-topic:

<p>Soil Drumming: Use small drums to mimic the sounds of soil. Start with soft, gentle tapping to represent loose soil, then transition to heavier, deeper drumming to represent compacted soil. This activity can help children understand the different qualities of soil.</p>	<p>Song about soil: Create a simple song about soil that incorporates basic facts. For example, the children could sing, "In the soil, so dark and brown, worms and bugs all wiggle around"</p>	<p>Soil Dance: Have the children pretend to be different elements of soil. They can wiggle like worms, stretch like roots, and sway like plants growing.</p>	<p>Planting Seeds Song: Teach students a song about planting seeds and growing plants in soil and encourage them to pantomime planting seeds, watering them and watching them grow. This is a creative moment.</p>	<p>Soil Storytelling circle: Children will create their own page of a book that is put together by the whole class. They can draw or paint about why soil is important to them. The children will gather together in a circle and each child will read their page.</p>
<p>Arts and crafts activity: Children will make a sculpture representing the layers of soil, adding a seed and making a plant all out of clay</p>	<p>Arts and crafts activity: Use a shoebox with a layer of soil at the bottom. Add sticks, rocks, leaves and plants.</p>	<p>Arts and crafts activity: Children will draw different insects and discuss how they live in the soil and how the soil benefits from them</p>	<p>Arts and crafts activity: Children will paint themselves and their classmates doing activities in the garden with soil</p>	<p>Arts and crafts activity: Children will participate in creating a large mural. They will pick their own space on a large poster and paint what they think is most important about protecting soil</p>
<p>Theatre: Children will participate in a puppet show. There will be several different characters: Sally the Soil, Wendy the Worm, Penny the Plant etc and they will discuss how they coexist</p>	<p>Theatre: Children will participate in a play with different characters similar to the puppet show but with: Ms Earth and Roger the Rabbit.</p>	<p>Make a poster about how soil supports plant growth and is needed to the ecosystem to thrive and present it to the class.</p>	<p>Plant a seed and watch it grow over the weeks. Each day students will draw with crayons the growth of the plant</p>	<p>Compost collage consisting of cut outs of fruits, vegetables and other compostable materials. Use magazines.</p>

