



Gardening Lesson Plan

Life Skills Branch

Lesson Plans are designed to accompany the related Helps documents for each Step. Please refer to the resources in the appropriate Helps document found in the Leader Pages while you prepare your lesson.

The six "F"s are presented in a suggested order, but you are not required to complete them in that order. You may rearrange them as fits your troop's particular needs.

Necessary Resources



- Seed Packs and variety pack of beans (like 15 bean soup mix)
- Glue
- Cardstock or cardboard



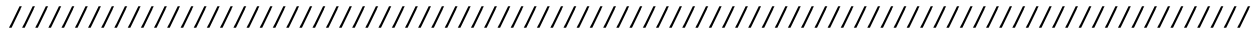
- Beans (any kind of dried bean will work great; some dry)
- Toothpicks
- Small disposable cups (one per Trailman, to be used as pots)
- Commercial potting soil



- Small disposable cups
- Potting soil
- Rapid germination seeds (radishes, lima beans, sunflower, marigold, morning glory, lettuce, alfalfa sprouts, rye grass)

- Plastic wrap
- Tape or rubber bands

FUN



Game

Play one of the following games, or pick another game from this website:

<http://www.ultimatecampresource.com/site/camp-activities/camp-games.html>



- Chicken Picks
- Indy Five Hundred
- Bob the Weasel
- Animal Guessing Game
- Indian Chief



FOCUS



Gardens

Learn about different types of gardens that people can plant for different reasons. Do you have a garden? What kind of garden is it? Learn about how plants are planted and show pictures of gardens and how plants grow. Some Trailman will have never seen how their food grows!



Let's Grow Dinner

What do you need to live? Allow Trailmen to answer: food, water, clothing, place to live, etc.

What do plants need to live? Allow Trailmen to answer: water, proper temperature, sunshine, soil with proper nutrients, etc.

Before there were grocery stores, people grew their own food. They knew a lot about vegetables and fruits and how to grow them. We are going to learn a little about that.

What parts of a plant do we eat?

- Roots (carrots)
- Leaves (lettuce)
- Flowers (broccoli)
- Stems (asparagus)
- Seeds (beans)

Most plants start out as seeds, which are tiny packets that contain everything that plant needs to begin life. Let's look at a leaf and talk about its parts.

<http://www.norbeckkids.com/images/leaf-parts.jpg>



Seeds

This week we look at seed growth and development. Plants were created on the third day of Creation (Genesis 1:11-13). What do we get from plants? (Replies might include food, shade, paper, building materials, medicines, etc.) Review the life cycle of plants (seed to seedling to vegetative stage to flowering stage to regeneration/seed producing). You may also want to go over the parts of plants (seed, cotyledon, seedling, seed pod, flower, leaf, root, stem, etc.).

FINGERS



Seeds Packs

Look at the packs of seeds that the Trail Guides brought. Is there a difference between the different types of seeds? Using seeds, various beans, and glue, create a picture of something simple or write their name on cardstock paper. If you want, let the Trailmen take some seeds home and plant them with their family.



Planting Seeds

Using small pots and potting soil, instruct Trailmen to fill cups 2/3 full with potting soil, add a couple of dry beans/seeds, press the beans/seeds lightly into the soil, and lightly water. Be sure to send home instructions so that the Trailmen can care for their new plants. Ask them to bring their plants back in two weeks to share progress.



Planting Seeds

Give each child a disposable cup. Fill each cup with soil and plant the seeds in the soil according to the information on the back of the seed packet. Water the seeds sparingly. Place plastic wrap over the top of the cup, and secure it with the rubber band or tape. Tell the Trailmen to water the soil when it is dry to the touch and to observe it daily. Have children guess what day they will see their plants peek through the surface of the soil. They can make a graph of their plants' growth and report this information back to the group next week. When the plant is big enough, transfer it to a pot.

FAITH (TRAIL GUIDE THOUGHTS)



Faith

At an opportune time within the Trail Guide's discretion, the following faith components may be discussed with the Trailmen. Please remember to end every meeting with prayer.

Read John 14:6-7.

Pray with the Trailmen.



Mustard Seed

Read and discuss the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13: 31-32).



Even though the mustard seed is the smallest of seeds, it grows into a large plant. Just as the beans/seeds you planted tonight are small and will grow into giant plants that bear fruit.

Trail Guide: Feel free to elaborate on this point. You too, just like this little seed, will grow. Every year you grow taller, bigger and stronger. We don't know, yet, what you will be when you grow up but it is my prayer that whatever you grow up to be that you will show God's love and kindness to everyone you meet.

Pray with the Trailmen.

FAMILY



Rock Garden

With your family, make a small rock garden.



Planting Seeds

Place seed cup in a well-lit window and watch it daily for two weeks. Water the plant as needed. Discuss the growth and development of the seed with parents.



Small Garden

Does your family, church, or meeting place have a small garden? Find a garden that you can help take care of for a week with your family. Have your family teach you how to weed the garden and, if necessary, pick the produce without harming the plant.

FOREST BADGE



By actively participating in this meeting, each Trailman earned the Gardening Step on the Life Skills Branch.



*Note: It is up to the Trail Guide to determine whether or not a Trailman was an active in the meeting. Even if he attended the meeting, you are not required to award him the Step if he did not participate.

