

Activity #2

Gardenless Garden



HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED:

1. 1 or 2-liter plastic bottle (Coca Cola bottles are too thick to cut with school scissors)
2. Premoistened soil
3. Seeds or seedling (herbs, many vegetables, small flowers)
4. Scissors
5. Marking pen to mark cutting lines (optional)
6. Spray bottle – works better for little hands to prevent overwatering

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL DO:

1. (Teacher) Using a sharp knife, cut a slit in each bottle at the height you want the student to cut – about half way down the fat part of the bottle. The top piece will be longer than the bottom.
2. Cut around the bottle using scissors.
3. Decorate your bottle before you put soil in it.
4. Plant in the top portion of the bottle with pre-moistened soil.
 - ❖ If planting seeds, fill the “planter” to about an inch from the top, then plant your seed following the package directions. Make sure some are planted near the edge to observe root growth.
 - ❖ If planting a seedling, fill about ½ full, then put your plant in and fill around the edges with soil.
5. Use a spray bottle to water. Put on a window sill, so that they will get enough light. Keep moist using spray bottle.

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

1. Plants need water, soil, air and sunlight to grow.
2. If planting in a clear bottle, you can see the roots growing and discuss how roots absorb moisture and nutrients from the soil.
3. You can check the progress of the roots and tops. If different kinds of seeds are used, comparisons can be made between germination rates, root growth, and sprout appearances.