

# Become a Landscape Designer

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## **Standards of Learning**

Math 2.11, 2.17, 3.9, 3.17, 4.7, 4.14, 5.8

English 2.2, 2.3, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 3.1, 3.2, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 4.1, 4.2, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 5.2, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9

Visual Arts 2.5, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10

## **Objective**

Students will:

- Measure designated garden plot
- Draw beginning and ending plot (to scale if possible)
- Create a theme for garden plot
- Research appropriate plants
- Organize collected data
- Write garden plot report
- Construct three dimensional garden plot display
- Present oral report

## **Materials**

- Measuring tape
- Graphing paper
- Seed catalogues
- Garden reference books
- Materials for art project

## **Background Knowledge**

School gardens can be used to teach many more subjects than just science. This lesson, which can be spaced out over several days, involves math skills as students measure and then plot their garden on graph paper. Students will then create an artistic rendering of their garden and will present their ideas orally to the class.

## **Procedure**

1. Divide the class into groups of three to four students. Using a tape measure, have students measure the garden space. Record the information on paper.
2. Each student will draw the garden space (to scale if possible) on paper. Include existing elements, such as walks, walls, trees, streams, etc. This drawing should be in plan view (seen from above). A good analogy to share with the students is a “bird’s eye view” of the garden.
3. Students should decide on a theme for their garden. Some theme examples are Butterfly Garden, Alphabet Garden, Rainbow Garden, etc. The possibilities are endless. Let the students be creative!
4. Use seed, plant and garden accessory catalogs as well as other garden reference books to choose the plants and accessories for the gardens. If you have old catalogs to spare, let the students cut out pictures and make a collage of their garden. Also, pictures can be laminated, mounted on stakes and used for plant identification in the garden.
5. After all components have been chosen and written down, draw a plan for the garden. Remember this should be done in plan view.
6. Write a report describing the garden.



7. Make a three dimensional model of the garden. This can be made with store bought items like Styrofoam, sponges and fabric, or made from items found in nature such as pebbles, twigs, moss, acorns and pine cones. A combination of materials is also very effective.
8. Have students present their garden ideas to the class orally. They should use the visuals they create (poster, models) to help with their explanation.
9. Choose one garden plot plan and implement plan into school landscape. Use parent assistance, local nursery donations or school monies for completion of project.

### **Extension**

Begin this whole lesson with a field trip to a local garden center, nursery or green house. If a field trip is not available, invite a horticulturalist, landscape designer or nursery manager to speak to the class about garden design elements.

Have students draw pictures to illustrate how their garden look during each season.

Compare seed packets. Chart differences in sunlight requirements, plant zones, soil types, flower size, shape, petal formations, germination rates and plant spacing.

Compare the costs of the garden plots. Include the cost of seeds, soil fertilizer and starter plants.

Calculate the cost of maintenance. Include manpower, necessary equipment, and soil additives such as fertilizer.

Use the five senses to orally describe vegetables grown in garden.

