



MAKE A GARDEN PLAN AND SIGN

Grades TK-8

GARDEN GROUPS PLAN THEIR GARDENS

Students make a plan, and decorate a sign for their gardens!

STEM TIME

40-60 min

Materials:

- student sheets
- pencils
- wooden stakes
- large popsicle sticks
- wood glue
- markers or acrylic paint
- paint brushes

Make a garden plan and sign

Say: "An important first step in cultivating a successful garden is to begin with the end in mind. This is done by thoughtfully planning your garden."

Instructions:

There will be about six students per garden bed. Students get to choose their garden groups, and will begin planning their gardens using the garden plan sheet. Ask the students guiding questions as they plan their gardens.

Say: "Think about what you want from your garden. Decide what you would like to grow."

- Do you want a mix of vegetables, herbs, and flowers?
- Do you want to grow only a flower or herb garden?
- Do you want to possibly grow a salsa or a butterfly garden?

Say: "Next, think about the design. As you think about the plants that you have chosen to grow in your garden, ask yourself some questions, and do some quick research to find the answers."

- Where do you think it would be best to plant the types of seeds, or sprouts that you want to grow?
- Do you want to make a design with your plants?

Instructions continued on the next page



- Where do you think it would be best to plant certain plants?

Say: "Different plants have different needs. Some plants, such as sugar snap peas, may grow tall, and will need a trellis. These plants will be best suited along the outside edge of a garden bed, along the shorter end. This way, a trellis may be added to guide the plant as it grows, but will not block access to the rest of the bed. Some plants, such as squash or pumpkin, require more space. Make sure to plant these farther apart from other plants, so they have room to grow. Vegetables that are smaller, such as, carrots, radishes, or beans, can be planted close together."

The students will choose a name for their garden, and every group needs to submit one garden plan with all of their names on it. Teachers will display the garden maps. After each group has completed their garden plan, they get to make a fun sign for their garden!

1. Each group will get a wooden stake, and everyone in the group will get a large popsicle stick. They can decorate their popsicle sticks with their own name, and the name of their garden.
2. They can each decorate a popsicle stick with markers or acrylic paint. If students are able to use paint, then this would be a great activity to do outside!
3. After all of the popsicle sticks are ready, the students can glue them onto the wooden stake.
4. Allow the students to put up their garden signs on another day.