

SCIENCE LESSON PLAN KS1/2

HARVESTING CROPS - PLANT LIFE CYCLES

Edible
Playgrounds

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- To learn how to harvest crops
- To investigate and develop understanding of plant life cycles

CURRICULUM LINKS

Science, Maths, Literacy, PSHE

RESOURCES

Bowl/bucket for crops, trowels, gloves, measuring equipment, camera, magnifying glasses
[Crop guide](#) (downloadable sheets) or seed packet

KEY VOCABULARY

harvest, crop, compost, pest, seed, germinate

INTRODUCTION (10 MINS)

Allow time for pupils to go on a tour of the whole growing space. As a whole class or in pairs can pupils identify crops that other groups are growing? What part of the plant do they think is eaten? Do they think it is ready?

MAIN (45 MINS)

What part of the plant(s) are we going to harvest today? What factors will have affected the success of our crop, e.g. *weather, water, pests, weeds?*

Adapt the following to suit your class and support provisions. Run as activity carousel or a series of sessions:

Activity 1: Harvesting crops – plant life cycle

Demonstrate how to harvest your crop. Refer to your 'crop guide' or seed packet to identify characteristics that show it is ready. Identify the options, i.e. **Harvest** (good to eat – collect in bucket/pile), **Compost** (damaged or not fit to eat – put in compost bin), **Leave** (not ready or can be left to 'go to seed').

Activity 2: Plant detectives – investigating crop damage

Investigate the crops destined for compost. Using magnifying glasses look closely, draw, label, describe what you see, smell, feel. Then predict what has damaged the crop. If there is damage by pests can you identify the culprit?

Activity 3: Plant life cycles – tell the tale!

Provide a list of age-appropriate key vocabulary. In talk partners, or sitting in a circle, pupils take turns to describe each step in the life cycle of the plant being harvested. Award one point for each word used correctly.

PLENARY (5 MINS)

Take a photo, count or weigh your harvest. What can be done with it now? Have you eaten it before? Do you have to cook it? If there is a lot what else could you do with it, e.g. *market stall, share with school kitchen?* What is going to happen to the plant matter put on the compost? Would you do anything differently if you grew this crop again? 'There is no such thing as failure in the garden' – Discuss (good for less successful harvests!)

EXTENSION

Draw a diagram showing the lifecycle of your crop.
Create a food chain featuring the crop you are harvesting.