

Botany ideas

Quick Reference

This was pulled together for
a workshop on
preschool science

Apples

- * Compare and contrast different types of apples (color, shape, taste, number of seeds)
- * Dry apples (peel, and let sit for several weeks in science center until it shrivels). Predict what will happen, and record on a sheet. Compare shriveled apple to fresh apple. float each in water.
- * Find the "star" inside an apple by cutting in half along the "equator", make "star prints with paint (do any other fruits have a star?)
- * Go apple picking, while there, do a bark rubbing of tree trunk (place paper on trunk, and use flat end of crayon to rub over paper, and get image of the texture of the trunk)

Seeds

- * Go on a "seed hunt" walk. Collect as many as you can find. (best done summer and fall). At school, sort seeds by size, shape, texture.
- * Make a collage with seeds
- * Plant seeds in soil. Measure their growth on a paper chart. (radish seeds work particularly well.) Cups to hold soil can range from small plant pots, to cleaned egg shell halves, and egg crate cartons
- * Plant seeds in different mediums (sandy soil, muddy soil, potting soil, sand, marbles, cotton,...) predict what will happen, observe and explain why.
- * Soak lima beans, in water over night. Dissect seeds with fingers and toothpicks. What is inside? What does that stuff do? Are seeds alive? How can you tell?
- * Build a baggie garden
 - observe seeds sprouting - see roots and shoots (look for root hairs), and leaves emerging
 - Put a baggie garden to grow in a dark closet, and one in a sunny window, make predictions, observe results, explain what happened.
 - Water baggie gardens with different liquids, make predictions, observe results, explain what happened
 - Test different seeds (bird seeds, radish seeds, dried lima and other beans, orange seeds, lemon, etc.)

Leaves

- * collect leaves (works anytime, but really spectacular in fall).
 - Sort, by size color shape.
 - Scrunch up a leaf and "draw" with it on paper (chlorophyll will act as marker)
 - look for signs of animal life (chewed holes, tiny galls (insect nurseries - safe!)
 - Leaf printing with paint

Twigs

- * Sprout buds- works best in winter observe buds from several different types of trees. Predict what will happen when you put twigs in a vase of water. Observe and tell.