

Shoots with Roots

Five Visit Program 2016/17

Primary (K – 3) Outline



Year Theme: Kids and plants need the same things to be healthy and grow.

Visit One – Sept/Oct: *Kids and plants need a place where they can grow.*

Activities:

- *Tour and Orientation
- *Douglas-fir Mouse Story
- *Nature Games – what does this place (Milner Gardens) look, smell, feel like?

Concepts: Plant features and diversity (explored through story and nature games).

Follow-up: Picture or writing about the visit to bring back on Visit 2 – template will be provided as it has to be a specific shape and size. A walk comparing a different natural space to Milner Gardens would be a nice link.

Visit Two – Nov/Dec: *Kids and plants need lots of time to grow – including time off in the winter!*

Activities:

- *Seed Life Cycle Drama
- *Orchard Wassailing (songs and spiced apple juice in the orchard)
- *Circle Journals (need to bring pictures/writing from the Visit 1 follow-up activity)

Concepts: Seasons/cycles and Plant life cycle; plant features that help survive winter; cultural connections to environment; seed and plant parts.

Follow-up: None required (Journals will be done during the visit) – looking more in-depth at plant life cycles, adaptations to winter, or different cultural winter celebrations would work.

Visit Three – Feb/Mar: *Kids and plants need water and warmth.*

Activities:

- *Springo (Bingo-style hunt for local signs of spring)
- *Seed planting (newspaper pots to take back to class/home as well as in garden)

Concepts: Plant needs and features, seasonal cycles, diversity of local plants

Follow-up: Circle journals (templates will be provided) to bring back on Visit 4. Plants will come back to class – you can send these home or use them for follow up activities in the classroom.

Visit Four – Apr/May: Kids and plants need *to be connected to others.*

Activities:

- *Team Cooperation Challenge
- *Forest Walk – looking at how plants and animals are connected
- *Pollinator Puppet Show and Pollinating with Bee Sticks (possible Bee Hive Visit)
- *Food Garden tending – we are connected to nature so let's be helpful to it!

Concepts: Interactions and connections in an ecosystem, plant needs and features, seasonal cycles, plant diversity, plant growth, insect life cycles

Follow-up: Circle journals (templates will be provided) to bring back on Visit 5. Any project involving helping a local natural area or learning more about pollinators would link well.

Visit Five – May/June: Kids and plants need *sunshine and food.*

Activities:

- *Photosynthesis Ingredients Scavenger Hunt
- *Food Garden Games and veggie sampling
- *Bee Hive Visit (if not done in Visit 4 – may include honey tasting)
- *Circle Journal completion and celebration

Concepts: Photosynthesis, Insect Life Cycles plus everything previously covered.

Follow-up: None required. Kids will be sent back with their completed circle journals as well as free family passes for a visit to Milner Gardens with their families.

Year-Long Project: Circle Journals.

To link the five visits together, students will create Circle Journals over the year.

These are inspired by Wheels of Time and Place (<http://partnersinplace.com/wheels-of-time-and-place/about>) and will consist of four drawings (or writing – it's flexible) – one per each of the first four visits - that fit together to make one circular representation of each child's year-long experience with Shoots with Roots and Milner Gardens & Woodland.

This project will **require classroom follow-up** to make journal sections **after Visits 1, 3, and 4.** We will work on the journals during Visit 2 (so you don't have to fit in one more activity at Christmastime!), and assemble them on Visit 5.

The intention is that by the end of the year, each child will have a keepsake from the program that doubles as an assessment tool for the teacher - you will be able to see visually what each student has learned and remembered from the entire five-visit field trip.