

Water Your Needs

Grade

3

Topic: Water
Grade: 3
Duration: 30 - 45 minutes

Students will learn how to use different plant species that are drought tolerant to save water.

Curriculum Expectations

- 3s2: Investigate the requirements of plants and the effects of changes in environmental conditions on plants
- 3s10: Describe, using their observations, how the growth of plants is affected by changes in environmental conditions
- 3s12: Design and conduct a hands-on inquiry into seed germination or plant growth
- 3s13: Ask questions about and identify some needs of plants, and explore possible answers to these questions and ways of meeting these needs
- 3s14: Plan investigations to answer some of these questions or find ways of meeting these needs, and explain the steps involved
- 3s15: Use appropriate vocabulary in describing their investigations, explorations, and observations
- 3s19: Describe ways in which humans can protect natural areas to maintain native plant species
- 3s24: Compare the requirements of some plants and animals, and identify the requirements that are common to all living things
- 3s25: Demonstrate awareness of ways of caring for plants properly
- 3e1: Communicate ideas and information for specific purposes and to specific audiences
- 3e51: Listen to discussions and ask questions to clarify meaning
- 3e63: Contribute ideas appropriate to the topic in group discussion and listen to the ideas of others

Background Information

Plants need food, water, soil, nutrients, carbon dioxide and time to grow. Catering to these basics can be either intense or fairly straightforward. Some plant species are very drought intolerant (like orchids). Some species are shade intolerant (like grass). Knowing the needs of plants species and knowing the area you live is important. You can save water if you find species that need very little water, and you can save time watering them, too!

Accountability

School administrators, custodians, teachers and students will be aware of where time can be saved by planting drought tolerant species. Students will be able to name plants that help the environment.

Teacher Notes

1. Materials: Garden catalogues, flower catalogues,
2. Create a list of (or draw and identify from pictures) the types of flowers and plants in and around the school.
3. Look in the garden books for the watering needs of each flower.

4. Discuss as a class the benefit of having drought tolerant flowers and plants around the school (when on summer holidays all the work we did to make sure the garden won't die).
5. Create a garden plan with sun and water needs in mind.

Home Extension

Share their garden knowledge with parents and create a plan for the next home garden. Discuss grass seed stock that is hearty enough to sustain itself in the heat of the summer and still be green without much watering.

Lesson comments

What did your students find?

Who did they tell?

What creative garden plans did they come up with?