

Video Transcript

Elementary Lesson 1: Plants All Around You

Speaker 1: Who likes to play in the dirt? Who doesn't like to play in the dirt? Gardening is for everyone and if you don't like to play in the dirt, you can always wear gloves.

Speaker 1: Today we're going to talk about learning about the plants all around you. Plants in your yard and around your neighborhood often produce seeds. Next time you go outside, talk a walk around and look at the different plants that may have seeds with them. Today we're sitting next to zinnia plants. Zinnia are a flower that we can harvest a lot of seeds from.

Speaker 1: Last fall, when my zinnia plants died, I went and cut off the heads. That's call deadheading and this is what a dried zinnia looks like. Inside the middle of the zinnia are seeds, and all of these seeds can be replanted into my garden. Easy seeds to save from your garden would be the tomatoes, the beans, the peppers, and the lettuce.

Speaker 1: Now a hybrid seed when you plant it it's not going to look like the parent plant you collected the seed from. And a diseased plant, the seed will probably not germinate and will not grow into a healthy plant, so it's best to stay away from hybrid seeds and diseased seeds.

Speaker 1: Now, let's get started. Head out to the yard and find some seeds.

Speaker 1: The seed sorting activity is one of the activities in the Nutrients for Life Nourishing the Planet curriculum. There are different ways to sort seeds, by color, by size, by shape. So we're going to go ahead and you guys want to get started. Sort through the seeds and that you to put them in piles of likeness.

Speaker 1: Seeds are all around you and you're going to find seeds where you least expected them. Today I brought a coconut. Did you know that a coconut is a seed? We also have a mango. How many of you guys like to eat mangoes? Now this can be planted in the soil with the right water, light and nutrients. This mango seed will grow into a mango tree.

Speaker 1: We also have a magnolia pod and inside the magnolia pod are these red seeds. Now, this little seed planted in the soil will grow into a large magnolia tree. Now how many of you are wearing cotton t-shirts? This is a cotton pod. If I pull out the cotton and dig down into the cotton, I will find a cotton seed. Again, planted in the soil this will grow and produce more cotton, allowing us to make more cotton t-shirts for you.

Speaker 1: Now I wonder if you know what this is. I know you've been out in yards before and seen acorns. You know that squirrels like to dig holes and bury them. This acorn actually germinated and you can see where it stuck down its root into the soil, and grew up towards the sun and started producing a small little tree.

Speaker 1: You may now know but in your kitchen there are lots of seeds. A good place to find a seed is inside an apple. We're going to cut this apple right down the middle and we're going to see the seeds on the inside. Can you see them? A lot of them you can see a star shape inside them. Hmmm, an apple a day keeps the doctor away.

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Speaker 1: As I mentioned earlier, peppers are an easy seed to harvest. We're going to cut this pepper open, and we're going to see the seeds on the inside of it. There we go. Look at all those seeds. So as you can see, the seeds are just falling out, and we want these seeds to dry. So we're going to leave them out on the counter for a couple days to dry, and then we're going to put them in a brown paper bag or a jar and save them for next year when we plant our garden.

Speaker 1: So next time you're outside playing, look for seeds all around you. Collect those seeds, bring them into the classroom and let everybody see the oddities and uniqueness of the seeds you collected.