

FSNE Farm to School

Garden in a Glove

Introduce students to the six parts of the plant we eat: seeds, roots, stems, leaves, fruits, and flowers and how plants grow. In this activity, students will plant 5 different seeds in a clear glove in order to observe and compare how each seed grows.

Materials:

- Clear, disposable poly gloves for food service (one per student)
- 5 moistened cotton balls for each student (soak cotton balls in water prior to the activity)
- 5 different types of seeds, each from a different part of the plant we eat (see the list below)
- Drinking straws
- Small address label stickers/permanent marker
- Tape

Directions:

1. Using the list below, select 5 different kinds of seeds, each representing a different part of the plant.
 - a. Seeds: corn, peas, beans
 - b. Roots: carrots, radishes, beets
 - c. Fruit: tomato, pepper, cucumber, melon
 - d. Leaves: lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, kale
 - e. Stem: celery
 - f. Flower: cauliflower, broccoli
2. Distribute 1 glove, 5 moistened cotton balls, and 5 labels to each student.
3. Have students place one cotton ball in each finger of their glove, making sure to shake the cotton ball down to the tip of the finger.
4. Place a label on each glove finger. (These can be pre-printed, or students can write the name of each plant on each finger.)
5. Create stations with each kind of seed. When they get to a station, they will place the straw in the glove finger that has the label for the seed and drop 2-3 seeds down the straw, so that it will land on the cotton ball. (Caution: larger seeds will not fit in the straw and will have to be inserted using a finger.)
6. Repeat this step with each kind of seed and glove finger.
7. Put each students' name on their gloves and tape the gloves to a sunny window, being sure not to seal the gloves closed.
8. Have students make predictions for their seeds and ask them to observe their gloves daily and record their observations in a journal.
9. (Optional) When the seedlings are approximately 2 inches tall, push up the cotton ball, and cut the bottom of the glove finger to allow the seedlings and cotton ball fall out. The seedlings can be planted in a container filled with soilless potting mix.

