



Best Lesson Plan:

Dervin Cunningham

Grade Level: 1st grade



Title of Lesson: The Basic Needs of Plants

Unit: The Life of A Plant

Standard(s)/Element(s):

S1L1. Students will investigate the characteristics and basic needs of plants and animals.

- a. Identify the basic needs of a plant—air, water, light, nutrients
- c. Identify the parts of a plant—root, stem, leaf, and flower.

Vocabulary: air, water, light, soil, nutrients, plant, seed, root, stem, leaf, flower

EQ: What are the 4 basic needs of a plant and what does a plant need to survive?

Opening: The teacher will read *Curious George Plants a Tree* by Margeret & H.A.Rey's or show *The Tiny Seed* read aloud <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls6wTeT2cKA> or *Sid the Seed* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcSRwrluy5c>

Mini-Lesson: The teacher will have the students sit in a circle and watch him/her plant her flower while discussing each individual step. Next, he/she will have kids play a card game to learn the basic needs of plants.

Closing: The teacher will have a discussion of the basic needs of plants with students.

Detailed lesson plan: After welcoming the class, the teacher will read *Curious George Plants a Tree* by Margeret & H.A.Rey's or show *The Tiny Seed* or *Sid the Seed* read aloud. Next, the teacher will lay out a plastic tarp on the ground. This will prevent any soil from spilling on the ground. The teacher will have the students sit in a circle and watch him/her plant the flower while discussing each individual step. Following this, the students will each plant their own seed. The teacher will ask the students to each name their plant and write the name on the cup so the plants will not become mixed up. Use measuring cups to distribute soil in each plastic cup. Give each student three horseradish seeds which they will plant in the soil in their cup. Students will pass around spray water bottles to water their plants. The teacher will designate a spot for the plants to be placed in the classroom. The students will spend the next two weeks observing the plant's growth and journaling about what they are observing. One plant will be placed in a closet for the remainder of the 2-week unit. Each day, the students will observe how the lack of the four basic needs of a plant affect the growth of the class plant compared to their individual plants that are being given the four basic needs.

For the next part of the lesson, create a boundary for students to play in. It should be large enough for everyone to have space, but also small enough so that some students need to be close together.

- Have some students help demonstrate how to play the game. You will throw the colored cards out at randomly inside the boundaries. When you say “go”, students will pick up 4 different colored cards: 1-yellow (sun); 1-blue (water); 1- brown (soil); 1 white (air)- without moving their feet. (Explain that since the students are plants, they cannot move). Ask students if they know what each color represents and have them share with the group. Record what each card represents on a board.
- Once they’ve picked up the 4 cards, they can hold it up. If they were not able to pick up all 4 colors, they did not survive to the next round and can help you collect cards. (Make sure you have enough cards for students to survive at least the first 2 rounds).
- Ask students to put their cards in their pocket to show you they are ready for the next round to begin. Continue playing until there is only 1 winner who will then receive a prize

In closing, students will gather around to discuss the significance of lesson plan with the teacher. The teacher will reiterate the four basic needs of all plants.

Materials Needed:

- Bag of potting soil
- Clear cups
- Horse Radish Seeds
- Water Spray Bottles
- Plastic tarp
- Construction Paper (White, Blue, Yellow, Brown)
- Scissors
- Treat/Prize for Winners (i.e. Candy)

***Cut up construction paper in approximately 3’ x 3’ squares. Fill Water bottles with water.**

What you would modify in doing the lesson again: In this lesson, I would allow students to sit at their table, if the video is shown, so that they will not be playing on the ground during the read aloud. I would also make sure kids are sitting down and paying attention when planting their seed. If not, they may lose focus and begin to horseplay, which will resulting in them spilling the soil.

Safety Concerns: Please make sure that all children thoroughly wash their hands after planting their seed. Also, make sure that children do not attempt to ingest any materials.