

Outdoor Learning Activities

Pre-K to 5th Grade

Gables Elementary School, Neptune, NJ



Gables School Outdoor Classroom

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Our Focus

This summer...



Develop **2**

learning activities
for Pre-K to 5th ...



Welcome!

The Outdoor Classroom offers a fantastic, creative gardening space in which students of ALL abilities, in grades

Pre-K to 5th, can achieve learning goals through inquiry-based, hands-on learning experiences in the area of Science.



Gables Outdoor Learning Space



Great Staff... Great Students...Great Expectations!



**Learning
Activities for
grades Pre-K to
5th reflect the
New Jersey
State Science
Standards.**



Energy Flow

Cycling of Materials

Interdependence

Idea of Change

CORE ECOLOGICAL CONCEPTS



The Outdoor Classroom



Take a Closer Look...



Learning Activities:

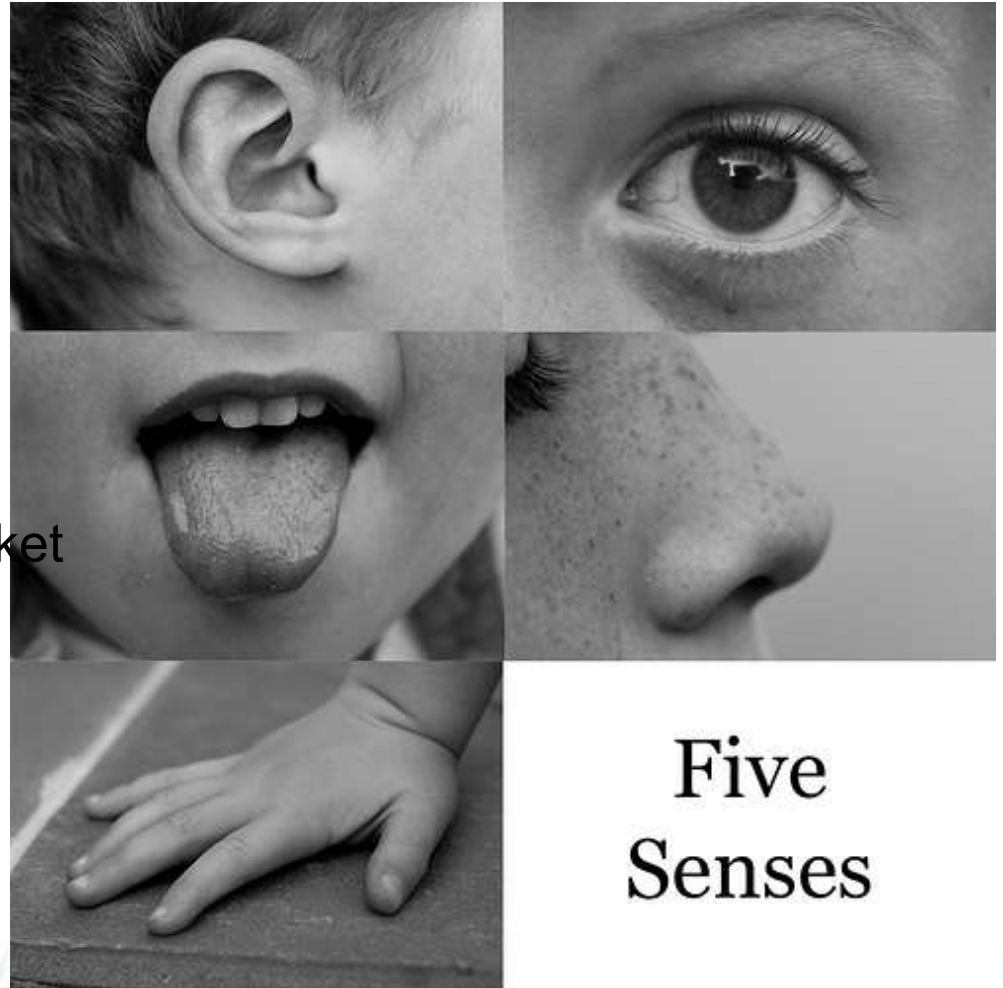
Pre-K

The Five Senses



Garden Feature: Sensory Garden

- Shape Walk
- Create an Observation Bucket



Five
Senses



Learning Activities:

Kindergarten

Weather



Garden Feature: Sensory Garden

- Make a Rain Gauge
- Make a Sundial



Learning Activities:

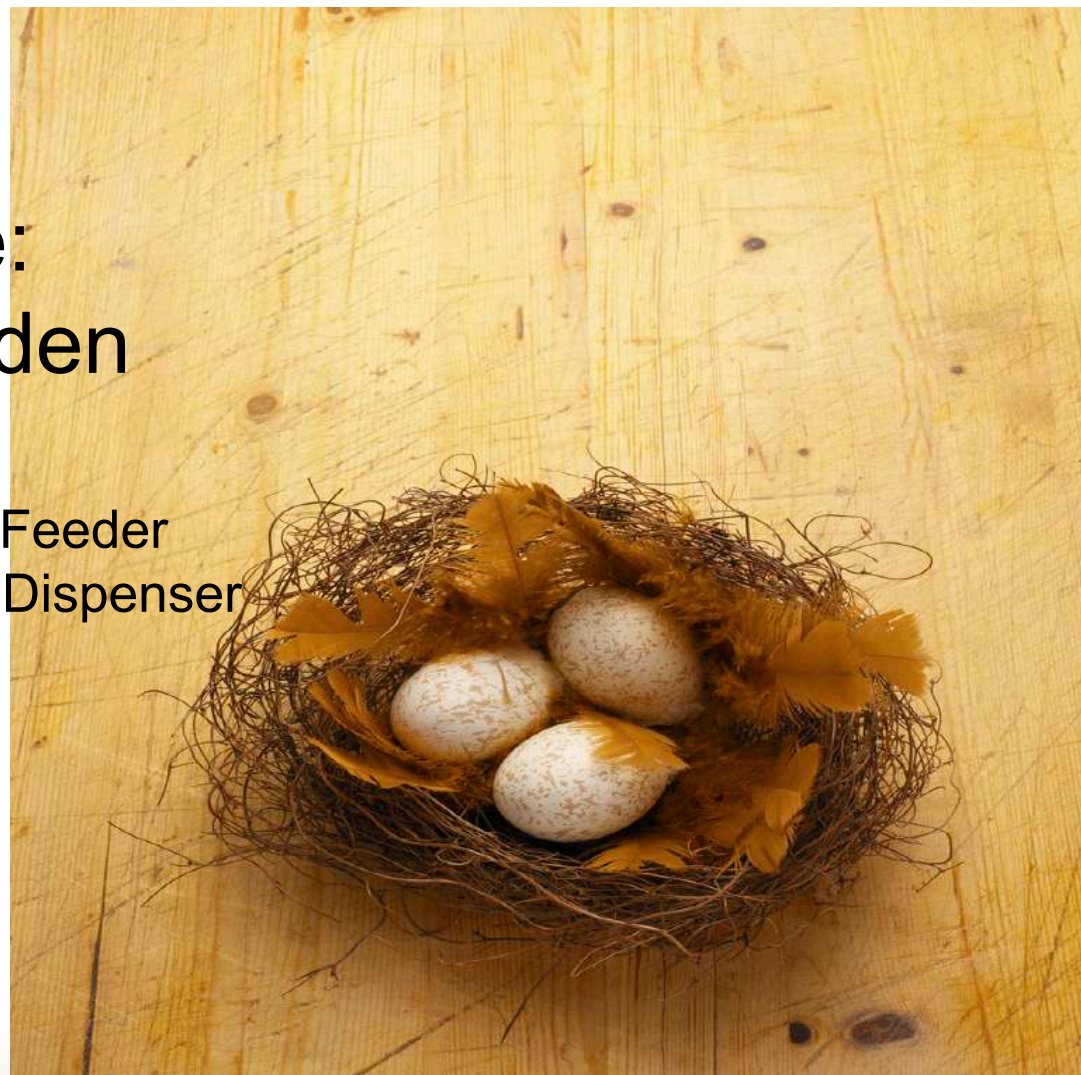
1st Grade

Habitats & Organisms



Garden Feature: Native Bird Garden

- Build a Recycled Bird Feeder
- Create a Bird Nesting Dispenser



Learning Activities:

2nd Grade

Habitats



Garden Feature: Butterfly Garden

- What is a Habitat?
- Protecting a Butterfly Habitat



Learning Activities:

3rd Grade

Life Cycles & Interdependence



Garden Feature: Hummingbird Garden

- Planting Nectar Flowers
- Tracking the Migration of Hummingbirds



Learning Activities:

4th Grade

Ecosystems & Energy



Garden Feature: Salad Garden

- Open Spaces, Wild Places
- How Do Plants Grow



Learning Activities:

5th Grade

Energy & Earth's Properties



Garden Feature: Hydroponics Garden

- Soil Analysis
- How Plants Grow
- Aztec Floating Gardens
- Great Growing Ground Stuff



Learning Activity Template

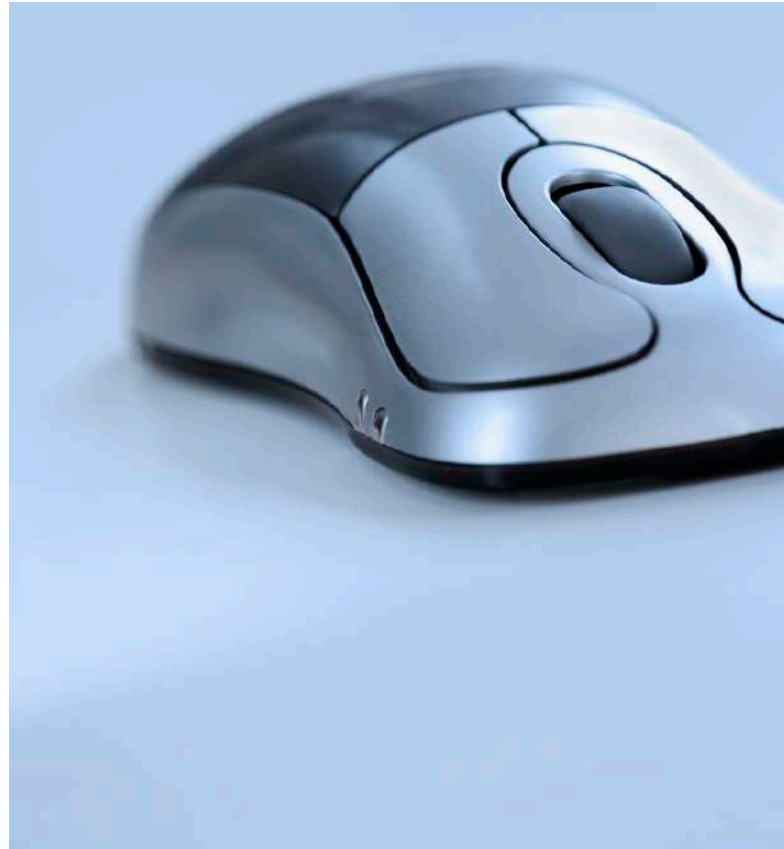


Activity Name, Standard, Guide and Time Needed	Activity Overview	Activity Steps
<p><u>Activity 1:</u></p> <p>Soil Analysis</p> <p>(5.4.6.C.1)</p> <p>Activity Sheet Attached</p> <p>http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=9863</p> <p>3 class periods</p>	<p>Students will analyze the contents of soil and relate the components to plant growth.</p> <p>LAL Connection: <u>Collins Writing:</u> What do you think soil is composed of? <u>Reading:</u> Scott Foresman, Life Science TE</p>	<p>Day 1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask students the Collins Type 1 question. 2. Ask students to make a pie chart showing how much of each they think soil contains. Ask them to save it and compare their answers at the end of the activity. 3. Use the step-by-step directions on the website http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=9863 to demonstrate the attributes of soil and relate it to plant growth. 4. Take student to the outdoor gardening site. 5. Give each group a plate (to collect ¼ cup of soil), paper towel, lens, tweezers. 6. Encourage the students to examine the small particles in the soil carefully. They are to look for organic matter and non-living material. Have them make separate the piles. 7. List the soil's contents. Now ask: "How can we make soil?" 8. Students should record their findings in their logs.



Questions?





Log-in to access learning plans

G-drive on the desktop



Gables School Sees the Light and Goes Green!

www.smartexchange.com

www.thinkquest.org

www.proteacher.com

<http://growingblue.com>

www.epa.gov/kids/club

<http://eelink.net>

<http://www.discoveryeducation.com>

www.learningscience.org



CLASSROOM RESOURCES



Bang, Molly. **Common Ground, The Water, Earth, and Air We Share**, New York, NY : The Blue Sky Press, c1997. A book that invites discussion. It helps us all to see our daily actions in a new way – and to understand why we must work together to preserve our common ground.

Barraclough, Sue. **Making a Difference Recycling Materials**, North Mankato, MN : Sea-to-Sea Pub. Co., c2008. Encourages children to help recycle, and think carefully about the value of materials and how they can be used again.

Bailey, Jacqui. **What's the Point of Being Green?**, North Mankato, MN : Two's Company Pub. Co., c2010. Written especially for young adult readers, this heavily illustrated book talks about the threat to our planet's environment and outlines steps that governments, organizations, and ordinary citizens – including this book's young readers – can take to help keep the planet green.

Berger, Melvin and Gilda. **Your Five Senses**, New York, NY : Scholastic, c2003. A color-illustrated overview of the five senses.

Boyd, Lizi. **Lulu Crow's Garden**, Canada : Pub. Co., Little, Brown, & Company, c1998. Rhyming nonsense verses picture Lulu Crow in her garden with all her animal friends.

CLASSROOM RESOURCES



Cole, Joanna. **The Magic School Bus Gets Planted**, New York, NY : Scholastic, c1997. In a young reader's introduction to plants and the science behind how they grow, Ms. Fizzle's class searches for a beanstalk for the class play, and fans are invited to participate with the accompanying seeds, pots, and stickers.

Ehlert, Lois. **Eating the Alphabet**, New York, NJ: Harcourt Brace Pub. Co., c1994. While teaching upper- and lowercase letters to preschoolers, it introduces fruits and vegetables from around the world.

Ehlert, Lois. **Growing Vegetable Soup**, New York, NJ: Harcourt Brace Pub. Co., c1994. A book about the gardening cycle with an easy recipe for vegetable soup.

Glaser, Linda. **Wonderful Worms**, Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press Pub. Co., c1992. Describes the physical characteristics, behavior, and life cycle of the common earthworm.

Henkes, Kevin. **My Garden**, New York, NY : HarperCollins Pub. Co., c2010. The girl in this book grows chocolate rabbits, tomatoes as big as beach balls, flowers that change color, and seashells in her garden.

CLASSROOM RESOURCES



Hines, Grossnickle Anna. **Miss Emma's Wild Garden**, New York, NJ : Greenwillow Books Pub. Co., c1997. Chloe's friend, Miss Emma, has a garden that grows any way it wants to. It is full of flowers, and there are wild animals too. There is another wild creature in the garden, whose identity children are invited to guess.

Kalman, Bobbie. **How a Plant Grows**, New York, NJ: Crabtree Pub. Co., c1996. . It introduces children to the amazing lives of plants – from their beginnings, through their growth, to reproduction and death.

Slade, Suzanne. **A Plastic Bottle's Journey**, North Mankato, MN : Picture Window Books, c2011. Where did that plastic bottle in your hand come from? And where is it going next? A plastic bottle's journey is filled with bounces, bumps, and blasts. Pack your bags, and get ready to follow it!

Stewart, Sarah. **The Gardener**, New York, NY : Square Fish Pub. Co., c2007. The book introduces readers to an engaging and determined young heroine, whose story is told through letters written home.

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

