

Garden Drama



Goals

Through role-play, students will explore natural events that occur in the garden.

Objectives

Students will investigate and act out natural events from the garden.

Materials

- Paper plates or large pieces of cardboard
- Glue
- Scissors
- Journals
- Mask accessories (feathers, sequins, pipe cleaners, etc.)
- Markers
- Various garden props
- Note cards

Time: 80 minutes

Background Information

If theatrical performances are an integral part of your youth garden, consider building a “living stage.” This structure is essentially an elevated raised bed filled with rocks, clay, sand and/or soil that students can use for various creative expressions. Line the front of your stage with beds of flowers and plant corn and sunflowers along the back of the stage to create a “living fence.”

Introduction (10 min)

With their journals, have students move throughout the garden and record different events they witness. Although many garden events are subtle, there are hundreds of events occurring at anytime in the garden. Examples include, a butterfly fluttering through the flowers, bees pollinating, plants growing, worms decomposing, gardeners harvesting vegetables, etc. Have students be specific and descriptive and encourage them to take their time and observe the events closely. Once students have recorded 2-3 events in their journals, gather the group and have each student discuss something they witnessed.

Activity Steps (60 min)

1. Explain to students that today they will be performing some of the garden events they witnessed in the garden through short skits. Tell them that skits should be 3-5 minutes in length and they will have an opportunity to create costumes and props.
2. Group students into groups of 3-4 students. Allow the groups to discuss the garden events they witnessed and choose one event that they would like to perform. Students may find it helpful to roam the garden and show their group members their favorite event.
3. Have students write an outline of their skit. Each group should also name their skit. They should assign roles and think out an order to their performance.
4. Provide students with craft materials and workspace to create props and costumes. Allow them to look through the garden props and choose ones that would enhance their performances.

5. Give students time to practice their skits. Each group may want to find a different area of the garden to rehearse.
6. When all the groups are ready, bring everyone together to perform and watch the garden skits. Give each group a chance to take stage and perform. Encourage the rest of the group to be a respectful audience and applaud each performance. You may want to invite family and community members to the garden to watch the performances.

Conclusion (10 min)

Give each student two note cards. Have them write a note on each card to a student/performing group. The note should point out something they liked or enjoyed about that person's/group's performance. Have the students deliver the fan mail to each other.

Notes

