

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR

# UP WE GROW! AND WATCH ME GROW!

BY DEBORAH HODGE



Use the following cross-curricular (and earth-friendly!) activities to accompany the books *Up We Grow!* and *Watch Me Grow!* by Deborah Hodge. The activities are designed to engage your students in thinking about how we can care for the earth and our future as we plant and grow our food. Feel free to print and share these activities with your colleagues. Thank you for your interest!

## LANGUAGE ARTS

**Write a cinquain poem** about your favourite insect or animal in nature using the following pattern:

- Animal's name (one word)
- Two verbs describing how it moves
- Three adjectives describing how it looks
- A four-word phrase about the animal
- Another word for the animal

*For example:*

Bee  
Flying, buzzing  
Furry, yellow, striped  
Collects nectar from flowers  
Insect

**Write a seasons poem.** Use your five senses to write a poem about your favourite season using the following structure:

- Fall looks like \_\_\_\_\_
- Fall sounds like \_\_\_\_\_
- Fall smells like \_\_\_\_\_
- Fall tastes like \_\_\_\_\_
- Fall feels like \_\_\_\_\_

*For example:*

Fall looks like red and yellow leaves falling from the trees  
Fall sounds like geese honking as they fly overhead  
Fall smells like pumpkin pie warm from the oven  
Fall tastes like the crunch of a crisp, juicy apple  
Fall feels like a chilly wind blowing — whoosh!

**Nature diary:** Go on a nature walk and draw or write about the plants and animals you see. Take other walks later in the year. Compare what you see then.

## SCIENCE

**Herb garden:** Grow herbs such as basil, oregano or parsley on a sunny windowsill. Put seeds in potting soil into small containers, and add water. Watch them grow!

**Compare seeds:** Cut open different kinds of fruit and compare the seeds you find. Look at: the number of seeds, their colour, size and shape. Make a graph or chart to show your findings.

**Life cycle diagram:** Choose an insect or animal and draw the stages of its life. For example, show the four stages of a bee, from egg to larva, pupa and adult.

**Bird watching:** What birds live in your area? Go on a bird walk and take a notebook to keep track of the birds you see. Note their colours, markings, songs and behaviour. When you get back to your class, learn more about the birds by checking a field guide. Write about what you find.

**Bird feeder:** Spread peanut butter on a pine cone, roll it in bird seed, and use yarn to hang your feeder from a tree. Watch who comes to eat!

**Compost bin:** Make a class compost bin and recycle all your fruit and vegetable leftovers. Use the compost in your school garden.

**School garden:** Find a patch of soil where you can dig and plant a school garden. Get everyone involved!

## FINE ARTS

**Sketch the seasons:** Fold a piece of paper into 4 squares. Write the name of a season at the top of each square (spring, summer, fall and winter). Draw a picture in each square that shows something about the season.

**Nature rubbings:** Collect textured items such as rocks, feathers, leaves, bark, shells and so on. Place a piece of construction paper over the items. Rub the paper gently with crayons until the textured images appear.

**Bee-friendly flowers:** Bees are important in nature! Use egg carton cups, pipe cleaners, paint, spray perfume, and glitter to design brightly coloured flowers that bees would love to visit.

**Nature mural:** Make a mural (or individual pictures) using objects from nature: twigs, grasses, feathers, leaves, seeds and so on. Paint or draw in some birds, animals and insects that live in nature.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Check your library for copies of *BEES* and *ANTS*, also written by Deborah Hodge, which include additional classroom-friendly activities. Included in the books are step-by-step instructions for: building a model bee or ant, a sense of smell experiment, insect observation activities, making a model ant nest, honeycomb prints and more.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Deborah's books or school visits, please see her website. Thank you for your interest!

[WWW.DEBORAHHODGE.COM](http://WWW.DEBORAHHODGE.COM)