

The Seasons at Molly's Organic Farm



Introduction

In the book, Molly journeys through an organic farm throughout the four seasons. In spring she finds hearty greens like chard, in summer she encounters corn, come fall she scrambles among the pumpkins and in winter she settles into a cozy farmer's home away from the icy fields. This activity reinforces concepts about the seasons by having students make watercolor sketches of seasonal vegetables.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Watercolors
- ◆ Watercolor or other heavy paper
- ◆ Brushes
- ◆ Vegetables/Photos/drawings of vegetables found in spring, summer, fall and winter.

Procedure

1. Have a discussion with students about what the weather is like in each of the four seasons. Make a list of descriptive words for each season. Discuss how the earth's seasons are the result of the tilt of the earth's axis. Because the axis is tilted, different parts of the globe are oriented towards the sun at different times of the year. Discuss that summer is warmer than winter (in each hemisphere) because the days are longer than the nights during the summer. During the winter, the sun's rays hit earth at an extreme angle and days are very short.
2. Discuss with students what plants need in order to grow. Ask them what season they are more likely to see vegetables growing in their gardens and why.
3. Give students a piece of paper folded into 4. Have them label each quadrant spring, summer, fall and winter. Look through *Molly's Organic Farm* for seasonal vegetables. Then using vegetables, photos or illustrations have them draw and paint a vegetable they might find in that season. For winter they can paint an icy field.

Key Concepts

- ◆ Identification of the 4 seasons
- ◆ The earth has seasons because of the tilt of the earth's axis.
- ◆ Plants need water, sunlight and soil to grow.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Have students visit their local grocery store and look at where the fruit and vegetables come from. Are they produced locally or did they travel a long way to reach their plates. Discuss how different climates and growing conditions can produce different fruits and vegetables.
- ◆ Have students brainstorm fruits and vegetables that they have seen growing in their local area or at their local farmer's market.

Additional Resources

By purchasing foods that are local and in season you eliminate the environmental damage caused by shipping foods for thousands of miles. For tips on eating seasonally visit www.sustainabletable.org

To find out how far your food travels visit www.nrdc.org and search food miles.

For more seasonal activities visit www.enchantedlearning.com

