

# Let's Plant a Garden!

## Social Studies Content

Trade

## NCSS Standards Theme

Production, Distribution, and  
Consumption

## C3 Framework

**D2.Eco.14.K-2** Describe why people in one country trade goods and services with people in other countries.

## Common Core Standards

**RI.K.10** Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.  
(Extending the learning)

**SL.K.1** Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

**L.K.6** Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.

## Materials Needed

Index cards with "soil," "water," or "seeds" on them, in words or pictures

## Vocabulary

Seeds  
Soil  
Trade  
Water

## How to do it:

In advance, make a few more of each card than the number of students in the class. Give each child three cards, all with the same word or picture on them. Put the extra cards in the "Garden Shed" (a box or pile on a table) that students can choose from if needed to complete their gardens. (A sample set of cards is available to download; see page 12.)

**1** Introduce the activity: "Today, each of you will gather what you need to plant a garden. You'll need soil, seeds, and water. To get all three things, you'll trade cards with each other." Model with a student how to trade cards and how to politely decline a card they already have.

**2** Explain how to do the activity: "When I say 'Go,' begin trading. When you have all three things you need for your garden, return to your circle spot." Reinforce students' efforts: "I hear friendly greetings. I hear people politely saying 'No, thank you' if they don't need to trade."

**3** Introduce the Garden Shed when most of the class is seated: "If you still need a card to finish your garden, come over to the Garden Shed and trade for the card you need."

**4** Finish with a brief reflection: "What made your trading successful? How can trading help people?"

## VARIATION

- Have students "build a house" by trading "hammer," "nails," and "wood" cards, and visiting the "Tool Shed" if they need a card.

## EXTENDING THE SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING BEYOND MORNING MEETING

- Read a book about trading, such as one listed below. Have students brainstorm other ways people from long ago (and today) might trade.
  - *Erandi's Braids* by Antonio Hernández Madrigal, illustrated by Tomie dePaola
  - *Ox-Cart Man* by Donald Hall, illustrated by Barbara Cooney
  - *Sheep in a Shop* by Nancy Shaw, illustrated by Margot Apple

