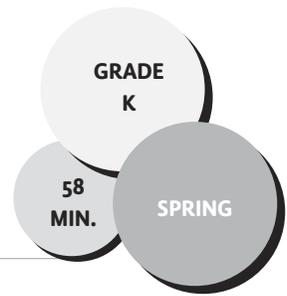


Plant a Pizza

THEME: GROWING AND ACCESSING HEALTHY FOOD



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Where do our favorite foods come from?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Students will be able to plant seeds and starts to create a pizza garden.
- ✓ Students will be able to explain the connection between a popular food and the plants that comprise it.

CONCEPTS

ingredients plant start
sow tool safety

Engaging the Classroom Teacher

- Prior to the lesson, discuss with the teacher whether they'd like to engage the class in continuing to care for the plants and seeds for the remainder of the school year. Schedule these subsequent class activities, or discuss what care will entail if the teacher is willing to do this independently.
- Share that the final product will be a Class Pizza Pie poster, and discuss a plan for where it can be displayed.
- Ask the teacher whether they have an easy way of splitting the class into three groups.

- During Action Steps 3 and 4, suggest that the teacher supervise and support students as they cut, paste, and color their pizza slice, while you take groups one at a time to plant.
- During Action Step 5, suggest that the teacher help tape students' triangles into the class pizza pies.

LESSON DESCRIPTION

In this lesson, students listen to a story read aloud and then plant vegetable starts that can be used for making pizza. In addition, they will design their own pizza slice with their favorite toppings and then put them together to make class pizza pies.

MATERIALS

One of the following:

- *All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel* by Dan Yaccarino—to emphasize the cultural background of the food
- *Fidget Grows a Pizza Garden* by Jodie Fitz—to emphasize the process the students will go through
- *How a Seed Grows* by Helene J. Jordan—to emphasize the plant life cycle as students will be planting starts
- Broadfork or shovel
- Seeds and starts for planting

- Tomato
- Basil
- Wheat seeds or bell pepper starts (see chart below)
- 4–5 watering cans
- For each student:
 - My Favorite Pizza Slice Worksheet (p. 131)
 - Scissors
 - Crayons
- Large piece of butcher paper for Class Pizza Pie! poster
- Masking tape
- Colored dot stickers to divide students into planting groups (optional)

PLANT THE FOLLOWING

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| • Tomato starts | Veggie Toppings | Herbs |
| • Basil starts | • Green onions | • Oregano |
| • Hard Wheat seeds
(if possible in
your region) | • Dark leafy greens
(spinach, chard, kale) | • Thyme |
| | • Zucchini | • Rosemary |
| | • Bell pepper | |
| | • Hot chili peppers | |
| | • Onions | |

PREPARATION

- › Prepare the bed you'll be planting by clearing out weeds and using a broadfork or other tool to loosen soil. If you are starting a new bed in the garden for this, consider making it in a circle to represent a pizza. If not, this also works in a garden bed of any shape.
- › On a large piece of butcher paper, draw three large circles. The radius of each circle should be the length of one of the pizza triangles from the Pizza Slice Worksheet. This is where students will tape their completed pizza triangles at the end of the lesson to create whole pizza pies.
- › Determine how you will divide the class into three groups for planting.

- › Prefill watering cans.

ACTION STEPS

1. Engage: Gather students in a circle and say, *Today we're going to plant a really popular food in the garden. It comes in a triangle shape, it's cheesy and saucy and has chewy crust. Do you know what it is? (Pizza!) Have you ever seen pizza growing in a garden? Well, how do you think we're going to do it then? (5 min.)*

2. Reading: Read the book you've selected to students, helping them understand the connection between growing plants and eating pizza. Ask, *What are the ingredients that go into pizza that we can grow in our garden?* Introduce to students the ingredients you'll be planting today by showing them the plant seeds and starts. **(10 min.)**

3. Making My Favorite Pizza Slice: Explain to students they'll get a chance to create a visual of their favorite pizza slice. Show them the worksheet. Explain that they'll cut out their slice, but then draw their toppings with pencil and then color with crayons. Explain that while they're drawing their favorite toppings on their pizza slices, you'll take one group at a time to plant the pizza garden. If you have them, pass out dot stickers with three different colors, red for tomato, green for basil, and yellow for wheat, for example, so students will be able to easily identify what group they're in. **(20 min.)**

4. Planting Rotations: While students are creating their slices, call up one group at a time to plant with you, demonstrating how to plant the seed or start they're working with. Teach or review tool safety during the demonstration, saying, for example, *See how I gently dig so*

that soil doesn't fly up where it might bother my neighbor? Depending on the number of students and space you have, you might have pairs work together to plant one start. Have students water their plant, and be sure this small group understands how their plant plays a part in making pizza. **(6 min. each group)**

5. Class Pizza Pies!: Gather students back in a circle and give each student a piece of tape. Have them affix their pizza slice onto the class pies. Discuss how everyone's different preferences can come together to create one big pie. **(10 min.)**

REFLECTION

Have students discuss the following questions in small groups, then share with the class: **(5 min.)**

Social and emotional learning

- Ask yourself: Was I safe and respectful in the garden today?
- Ask yourself: What was something helpful that I or a classmate did in the garden today?

Check for understanding

- What are the plants that we planted today that would help us make pizza?
- What part of pizza do tomatoes make? What part of pizza does wheat make? etc.

ADAPTATIONS

Circular Bed Variation: If you have the space, make a circular pizza garden, planting your toppings in different wedges of the circle.

Different Theme Beds: Invite students to share common or favorite dishes from their

communities, and then work with them to plan theme beds to plant the ingredients for these dishes.

Dairy and Meat Extension: Consider placing figurines of cows and pigs in the pizza garden to honor where cheese, pepperoni, and sausage come from.

Follow-Up: In the fall, make pizza with the now second graders, making your own homemade tomato sauce and topping pies with veggies and herbs from the garden.

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

English Language Arts Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1

Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

My Favorite Pizza Slice

Directions: Draw and color your favorite pizza toppings on your pizza slice. Then cut out your slice.



Example of Class Poster

