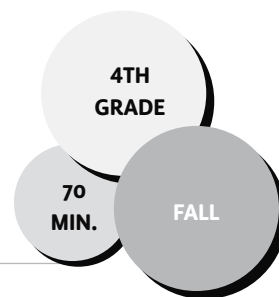


Poetic Produce

THEME: MAKING NOURISHING FOOD CHOICES

(divided over two sessions)



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How can our experience of food inspire creativity?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Students will be able to explain that various fruits and vegetables, such as tomatoes, have different varieties.
- ✓ Students will be able to describe different produce varieties in detail.
- ✓ Students will be able to collaborate on a creative expression piece.
- ✓ Students will be able to define “preference,” identify tastes and textures that they prefer, and explain that different people have different food preferences.

CONCEPTS

description five senses freewrite

ENGAGING THE CLASSROOM TEACHER

- Prior to the lesson, ask the teacher about students’ familiarity with writing poetry and descriptive detail. If students have already been working on this writing skill, you and the teacher can determine whether there should be a Forbidden word bank (see preparation below).
- Ask the teacher if they have established groups that students will collaborate well in.

- For Action Step 5, ask the teacher if the class already has an established protocol for performing or presenting that you can use.
- During Action Step 2, suggest that the teacher circulate to the different stations, ensuring students are following directions and handling the food appropriately.
- During Action Step 5, suggest that the teacher help groups stay focused and work well with one another.

LESSON DESCRIPTION

In this lesson, students mindfully taste and describe produce varieties at stations around the room. They then collaborate in groups to develop a poem, song, or skit incorporating all the descriptive words the class generated about each variety. After performing, the class will consider how everyone has different preferences that inform what they like to eat. The kindergarten lesson Mindful Tasting is a good lesson to adapt and teach prior to this lesson to foster students’ understanding of descriptive sensory words.

MATERIALS

- Descriptive Food Words Poster (p. 407)
- Samples of 4–5 varieties of a single type of fruit or vegetable, such as varieties of apples, tomatoes, or salad greens
- Brown paper bags
- Toothpicks (at least 4 for each student)
- Slips of paper (at least 4 for each student)
- Bell (optional)

PREPARATION

- › Slice produce into enough small pieces for each student to try each one.
- › Set up tasting stations around the room. If you have a large class, you might opt for five stations to limit the number of students in each group. Number each station, and display the name of the variety at the station. Each station will need a distinct produce variety, toothpicks, a brown paper bag, and enough slips of paper for each student to have one. Write the corresponding number and variety name on a slip of paper, and place it in the bag.
- › To stretch students' thinking, consider creating a Forbidden Word Bank with common words such as "sweet" that students can't use. Students will have to think of other unique sensory words instead.
- › Display Sensory Food Words Poster.

ACTION STEPS

1. Engage: Gather students in a circle and say, *Have you ever heard the expression, We eat with our eyes? What do you think that means?* Discuss how eating something isn't just about how it tastes, but how it looks, how it smells, its texture, a memory it brings to your mind, or someone it makes you think of. Ask students, *What are the words we use to describe food?* Show students

the Descriptive Food Words Poster, and have them take turns reading aloud the various words. Explain that today they'll be having a tasting and doing creative writing about what they taste. Say, *We'll want to use as creative and unique words as we can!* Tell students, *I have different varieties of apples for us to try at different stations around the room. You'll visit each taste station, mindfully trying the slice of apple and paying close attention to the texture, flavors, and what it reminds you of. Then each of you will write a word or phrase, with a three-word maximum, on a slip of paper to describe your impression of that particular variety. When I say "switch," you'll move to the next station. (5 min.)*

2. Hand-Washing Break (5 min.)

3. Taste and Describe Stations: Remind students to only take one piece at each station and to only touch the slice they're going to eat. Assign groups of students to start at various stations—these will be students' working groups for the rest of the activity. After several minutes, call out "switch" or ring a bell, and have students rotate clockwise to the next station. Circulate to different stations, checking that students are following directions and supporting students who need guidance. (12 min.)



4. Explain the Activity: Once everyone has tried each variety, mix the bags around, and assign one to each group of students. Explain, *Your group will now create a written piece of art, using all the words in your bag. Feel free to write a poem, a story, an advertisement, or a skit; use any genre of writing. You can add additional words if you need to, but if a word like speckled has been written on five different pieces of paper, you'll have to include speckled five times in your written piece.* Explain that each group will perform their song, poem, or skit for the class, who will try to guess which variety they're describing. Therefore, it's important that they keep their variety a secret. **(3 min.)**

5. Group Writing: Tell students they'll have about fifteen minutes for writing and brainstorming and five minutes to do a couple rehearsals before sharing their piece. As students are working in groups, circulate through the room to check in and ensure they're on track. After fifteen minutes, ask them to get on their feet and practice their piece, making sure each member of their group has a role. **(20 min.)**

6. Performing: Have students return to their usual seats. Go over expectations for how to be a polite audience when their peers are performing. Have each group perform for the class, allowing the audience to guess which variety was being featured in each performance. Reveal the varieties after all groups have performed. **(15 min.)**

7. Voting: Remind students to consider that each person's unique perspective is represented in each poem. Ask, *Based on these poems, which variety seems most favored by the class? Which seems least favored?* Ask students to

define the word "preference," and consider their own preferred variety. Take a heads-down vote on which variety was their favorite, and discuss the findings. **(5 min.)**

REFLECTION

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

Social and emotional learning

- *How did your group collaborate to create your poem, song, or skit?*
- *What challenges came up in your groups? How did you overcome them?*

Check for understanding

- *Why is it important to try different varieties of a particular fruit or vegetable?*

ADAPTATIONS

Garden Variation: Adapt this activity for students to hone their observation skills in the garden. Set up the writing stations at four different garden beds, herbs, or pollinator shrubs.

Language: Have students include words from different languages that they know, including the English version. For example, *rica*, "delicious." Later, when groups craft their poems, they'll have to use both words.

Classroom Extension: Have a station in the classroom where students will find a new, uncommon fruit or vegetable each week. Have them record their observations based on the five senses and then write a poem or story about it.

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

English Language Arts Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3.D

Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.

Descriptive Food Words Poster

