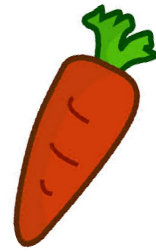




Practice Task: Vegetable Gardens



PART 1: RESEARCH

(Approx. 60-90 minutes)

Student Directions:

Your Task:

A third-grade class in a neighboring school wants to grow their own vegetables. You have been asked to explain to the students at this school what is required to start a vegetable garden. You will watch a video and read an article about starting a vegetable garden, taking notes on these sources, and then write an informational essay.

Steps you will be following:

To plan and write your essay, you will do all the following:

1. Read an article and watch a video.
2. Answer three questions about the sources.
3. Plan and write your essay.

Directions for beginning:

You will now watch one video and read one article. Take notes because you may want to refer to your notes while writing your essay. You can look at either of the sources as often as you like.

Source Information:

Article: *How to Plan a Vegetable Garden* from Better Homes and Gardens

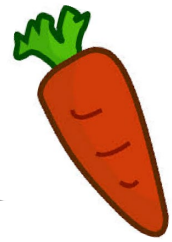
Video: *Vegetable Gardening: How to Plan a Vegetable Garden for Kids* (3:47)

<https://youtu.be/TVep6M2bVhk>

Use the notetaking graphic organizers to take your notes on both sources.



Practice Task: Vegetable Gardens

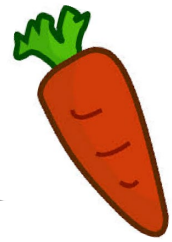


What should people think about when starting a vegetable garden?

Video: <i>Vegetable Gardening: How to plan a vegetable garden for kids</i>	
What people should think about	Why this is important



Practice Task: Vegetable Gardens



Article: <i>How to Plan a Vegetable Garden</i>	
What people should think about	Why this is important

NOTE: Your notes will not be scored.



HOW TO PLAN A

Vegetable Garden

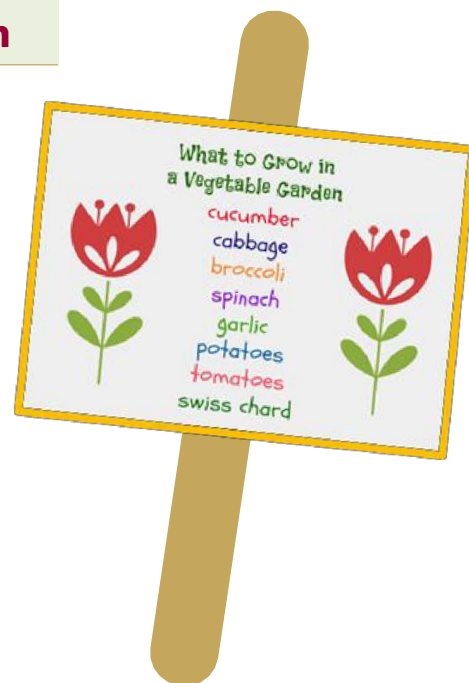
Better Homes and Garden Website

Deciding What to Plant in a Vegetable Garden


Start small! Many gardeners get a little too excited at the beginning of the season and plant more than they need -- and end up wasting food and feeling overwhelmed by their garden.

So first, take a look at how much your family will eat. Keep in mind that vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, and squash keep producing throughout the season -- so you may not need many plants. Other vegetables, such as carrots, radishes, and corn, produce only once. You may need to plant more of these.

Also, think about vegetables that are easier to grow like beans, radishes, lettuce and zucchini. These vegetables do well in almost any climate.



Picking the Perfect Spot for the Garden



No matter how big your vegetable garden is, or what you decide to plant, there are three basic requirements for success:

- 1. Full sun.** Most vegetables need at least 6-8 hours of direct sun. If they don't get enough light, they won't produce as much, and they'll be more easily attacked by insects. If you don't have a sunny spot for your vegetable garden, you can still grow many leafy vegetables such as lettuce and spinach.
- 2. Plenty of water.** Because most vegetables have to have water on a regular basis, you'll need to give them a drink during dry spells. When thinking about how to plan a vegetable garden, remember: The closer your garden is to a source of water, the easier it will be for you.
- 3. Good soil.** As with any kind of garden, success usually starts with the soil. Most vegetables do best in moist, well-drained soil that's rich in organic matter (such as compost or peat moss).

How to Plan a Vegetable Garden



Care and Feeding of the Vegetable Garden

Vegetables need moisture, but not so much that they are standing in water. About an inch of water per week is usually enough. Water when the top inch of soil is dry.



Weeds compete with your vegetables for water and nutrients, so it's important to get rid of them. Use a [hoe](#) or hand fork to lightly stir (cultivate) the top inch of soil regularly to discourage weed seedlings and pull weeds as needed.

Fertilizing your crops is important to healthy growth. Most gardeners apply a packaged vegetable fertilizer, following the directions on the box or bag. Don't apply more than recommended or you could decrease your crop size.

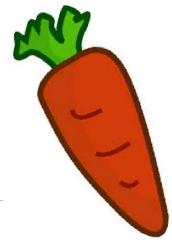


Enjoy the delicious vegetables that you grow!!!





Practice Task: Vegetable Gardens



2. Read the following statement: "Growing Vegetables requires hard work!" Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your answer using at least two pieces of evidence from the video or the text to support your opinion. (*Claim 4, Target 4*)

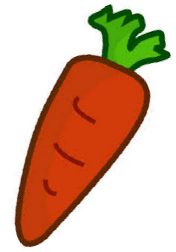
3. Which ideas from the video or the article are things gardeners should consider when starting a vegetable garden? Select as many as apply by circling the letters:

- a. Space available to grow vegetables
- b. Cost of the plant seeds
- c. History of the vegetables that will grow
- d. The amount of sunlight the plants will get
- e. Whether the seeds will be planted indoors or outdoors
- f. How long it will take for each plant to grow
- g. Whether or not vegetables are good for you

(Claim 4, Target 2)



Practice Task: Vegetable Gardens



PART 2: ESSAY (approx. 60-90 minutes)

Student Directions:

You will now have approximately 60-90 minutes to review your notes and sources, plan, draft, and revise your essay. While you may use your notes and refer to the sources, you must work on your own. Now read your assignment and the information about how your essay will be scored, and then begin your work.

Your Assignment

A third-grade class in a neighboring school wants to grow their own vegetables. Explain to the students at this school what is required to start a vegetable garden. Use information from the video and the article in your essay. Be sure to tell the reader which source you used for the information.

How your essay will be scored:

The people scoring your essay will be assigning scores for

1. **Statement of Purpose/Focus** – how well you clearly state and maintain your controlling idea or main idea
2. **Organization** – how well the ideas progress from the introduction to the conclusion using effective transitions and how well you stay on topic throughout the essay.
3. **Elaboration of Evidence** – how well you provide evidence from sources about your topic and elaborate with specific information
4. **Language and Vocabulary** – how well you effectively express ideas using precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose
5. **Conventions** – how well you follow the rules of usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling

Now begin work on your article.

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- Plan your essay
- Draft your essay
- Revise and edit for a final draft



Practice Task: Vegetable Gardens



Organizing My Essay: How to Start a Vegetable Garden

Introduction	
Idea #1	
Idea #2	
Idea #3	
Idea #4	
Conclusion	

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