

**Plant Fall Bulbs**  
2017 October  
Garden Parent Outdoor Lesson #4

**Objective:** A hands on gardening lesson that plants bulbs. Present a broad overview of bulb botany. Integration of thinking about the seasons - planting now to look forward to late winter/early spring flowers. Integrate concepts of measuring by inches. [Photograph the garden beds after planting, and be able to reference back to these when the bulbs emerge in the spring.](#)

**Time/location:** The entire lesson can be done in 30-40 minutes in the school garden.

**Materials:** (snow drop) Bulbs, Shovels, gloves, Warm Soapy Water in a Bowl, towel, paper and pencil, plant based dye, tape, kraft paper, onions (halved), Field Notebooks, 3” measuring sticks (C&E?)

**Poem:** *Ode to Bulb-Eating Rodents*, Eudora Welty

**The Lesson:**

**Part 1 / Intro and Instructions 5 min**

-Students will gather by the picnic benches and receive instructions and supplies to plant bulbs, including how deep the bulbs will need to be planted. Brief intro about what a bulb is.

-Show photo of snowdrop - ask when they think it will bloom, what else is in garden, why called a snowdrop etc..

**Part 2 / Planting 15 min**

-Each child will plant 2 bulbs in a designated area, focusing on spacing and depth below soil.

-Put on gloves, Get a mini trowel. They find a flag with their class color. Dig a narrow hole around 3" deep. Place bulb pointy side up. Sprinkle in a little bone meal. (have each adult have some bone meal in a yogurt container and they can come to the kid who needs some. Just a sprinkle is needed for fertilizer.) Cover up with dirt. Repeat if there is time. (up to 2 bulbs per kid). Take off gloves, wash hands in prepped bowl warm soapy water, dry.

[-\*Deep Breath Pause:\* Be a bulb. Breathe in the air just the way the roots absorb in the water, feel it go to all parts of your body, and breath out.](#)

**Part 3 / Bulb Drawings 10min**

-The kids will make observational drawings of halved onions. The drawing can be taped into their field notebooks later.

**Part 4 / Poetry & Movement 5 min**

Gather in a circle, and read excerpts from "Ode to Bulb-Eating Rodents", Eudora Welty

Squirrel, squirrel, burning bright,  
Do not eat my bulbs tonight!  
I think it bad and quite insidious  
That you should eat my blue tigrideas.  
Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*,  
Leave to me my small *muscaris*,  
Must you make your midnight snack, mouse,  
Of *Narcissus Mrs. Backhouse*?  
When you bite the pure *leucojum*,  
Do you feel no taint of odium?  
Must you chew till Kingdom Come  
*Hippeastrum advenum*?

If in your tummy bloomed a lily,  
Wouldn't you feel sort of silly?  
Do you wish to tease and joke us  
When you carry off a crocus?  
Must you hang up in your pantries  
All my *Pink Queen zephyranthes*?  
Tell me, has it ever been thus,  
Squirrels must eat the *hyacinthus*?  
O little rodent,  
I wish you wo'dn't!







