

**Seed Pod Sunprints**  
2017 November  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade Garden Parent Outdoor Lesson #7

**Objective:** 1. To make an image of the late November ground level garden, focusing on seeds/ leaves.  
2. To study the shadows of the sun using ultra-violet sensitive paper.

**Time/location:** The entire lesson can be done in **35-45 minutes** in the school garden. **This must be done on a sunny day.**

**Materials:** scissors  
clipboards  
sunprint paper  
8 x 10 plexiglass sheets  
collected seed pods, leaves (I will have a collection for each class, and the students will add something special during the nature walk. Feel free to collect some for the lesson!)  
beach towels

**Book:** **Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt**, by Kate Messner (available in the school library)

**The Lesson:**

**Part 1 / Nature Walk - Seed Pod Specimen Collection** **10-15 mins**

-Students will walk to the graduation rock garden to collect a small specimen (what could fit in an egg carton space) with scissors. They should be encouraged to choose their specimen because it is a seed pod or because it is an interesting shaped leaf/stem/etc. They can think about the shape of the specimen AND the space around it (negative space).

- Students can also collect leaves that have blown down from the trees.

**Part 2 / Sunprint Demo** **5 mins**

- Seated at the picnic tables, parents explain how to make the sunprint. (see below)

**Tips:** -Parents will show students some of the choices of collected seeds and clipped stems, talking about the different shapes.

-Emphasize how the sun starts changing the paper as soon as it is out of the black folder.

- Flatter seeds, etc, leave a stronger shadow. If they have a chunky seed pod from a flower, they can pull it apart and scatter the seeds on the page.

**Part 3 / Student Sunprinting!** **15 mins**

Procedure:

1. Students find a sunny, flat space. Look at how the shadows fall in that space.
2. Parents pull a sheet of the photo-sensitive paper out and put under clip board, blue side up (to hold it down). **ONCE THE SHEET IS OUT, IT IS DEVELOPING!**
3. Students arrange seeds, leaves, and stems on their page. What does the garden look like now? They can change their minds for about 2 mins, but then should not move things. Encourage them to think about the shadows. These are the images that are blocked from the sun and will show up.
4. Parents/students place clear plexiglass plate on top of sunprint papers (to hold down).
5. Wait. Students can watch their sheets turn very light-blue to white. It takes time.
6. Once the sheets are light-blue to white, students rinse their paper under water in the garden sink for 30 seconds to fix the image.

**Drying:** The papers will be dripping wet at first and need to be laid flat on a towel. Bring lots of beach towels to sandwich the papers in layers for an initial dry. After the lesson and they are dry, press them flat between books. We're going to use them again in February, when we make a companion work of the bugs who are down in the dirt.

**Part 4 / Book (if needed)**

Read "Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt."



