

Bulb Planting TULIPS

2018 November

2nd Grade Garden Parent Outdoor Lesson #6

Objective: A hands-on gardening lesson that plants tulip bulbs in the school garden. 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 estimated measuring. Practice Reading slowly, and breaking up tricky words (botanical bulb types) into syllables

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

Materials: (TULIP) Bulbs, Shovels, gloves, Warm Soapy Water in a Bowl(shed), towel, paper and pencil, 2 whole onions and 1 halved onion, Tulip bulbs for planting.

Book: *Taylor's Guide to Bulbs* (In the Garden Shed with the TULIPS)

Poem: *Ode to Bulb Eating Rodents* by Eudora Welty (1909-2001)

The Lesson:

Part 1 / BULB DISCUSSION & DEMO

Each child will plant 3 bulbs in a designated area, focusing on spacing and depth below soil. **10 min**

- Prep the bulbs in your box, by placing them in a large bowl for all to see.
- Gather all the students with the tulip bulbs, and onion and a garlic head, and review how bulbs should be planted (pointy side up),
- talk about how bulbs are Nature's Refrigerator (Ms.Lewellyn has shared this metaphor with some of the students before because they store as all the nutrients the plant needs within the bulb vs a seed, which takes nutrients from the soil around)
- Give each kid 3 bulbs and do a "great bulb toss" - lightly underhanding them into their planting area - basically placing all of the bulbs before they are planting (if you wait it is impossible to see what has been planted already. Then we loosely evened out the spacing in the bed.
- Break up into 4 groups of 4-5 students, while one group plants their 3 bulbs each, the other students will find a clipboard with the poem below and start **Part 2/ Bulb Poem work**, while they wait.

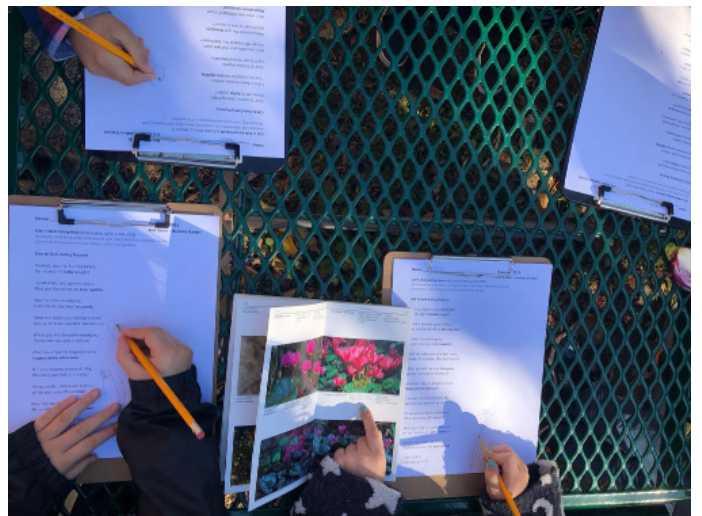
Part 2 / PLANTING STEPS **25 min**

- Dig a narrow hole around 4-6" deep, or students may use their hands to estimate depth, and dig a hole slightly deeper than their hand.
- Students should not walk on the beds that have been planted. **Work from paths around each bed-side.**
- The bulbs should be planted twice the height of the bulb - around 4-6 inches, or students may use their hands to estimate depth, and dig a hole slightly deeper than their hand.
- 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. (3 bulbs per kid). Take off gloves, wash hands in prepped bowl warm soapy water, dry.

Part 3 / POEM - *Ode to Bulb-Eating Rodents* by Eudora Welty, (1909-2001)

READ, DRAW, WRITE **35 min OVERLAPS WITH PLANTING STEP ABOVE, w/ 5m.FULL CLASS READ ALOUD AT END**

- Set up the poem sheet on a clipboard with a pencil for each student (At Green Picnic TABLES)
- Students read the poem, practice each stanza slowly, slow down, read tricky bolded botanical bulb names.
- Underlined words are not bulb names, but also tricky, and will require slowing down, ask about meaning.
- Make observational drawings of halved onions/ whole onions and garlic heads, (1 per table).
- Circulate the **Taylor's guide to Bulbs** for inspiration on different flowers that grow from bulbs.
- If students finish drawing bulbs, some students should then write down the bolded bulb names, breaking them up into their syllables, this ties into second grade syllable word studies.
- At the end of class, after everyone has practiced reading the poem, and finished their drawings, every two students read one stanza aloud, and so the class reads the poem together.



Name: _____

November 2018

2nd Grade - Haldane Garden

Ode to Bulb-Eating Rodents by Eudora Welty, (1909-2001)

American short story writer and novelist who wrote about the American South

She wrote this poem on a stick and posted it in her garden!

Ode to Bulb-Eating Rodents

Squirrel, squirrel, burning bright,
Do not eat my **bulbs** tonight!

I think it bad and quite insidious
That you should eat my **blue tigridias**.

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!

