

Pioneer Living: “Ma’s Prairie Garden”

Discussion:

Who has a garden at home? What kinds of things do you have planted? Flowers? Vegetables, Fruit?

In the pioneer days, out west, there were no supermarkets to shop at. How did people get their food? They planted gardens, they foraged, they hunted. They traded. There was a general store. What would they buy there?

In the book Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder, Ma planted a big garden. Read from Little House on the Prairie. After the big prairie fire, all the grasses were burned and everything was black: pg. 312 “And one morning the whole land was green.” to pg. 316 “We’re going now!”

In Farmer Boy, also by Laura Ingalls Wilder, the family had a big garden. Almanzo liked farming a lot but because he was still young, he had to go to school while the older children worked the fields.

Read from Farmer Boy: pg. 163 “That was a cold, late spring.” to pg. 164 “...there were so many interesting things to do.” In those days, older children had to work the fields instead of going to school. Pg. 165 “Then in the chill, early morning...” Pg 167 “...now it was strawberry time.” Pg. 169 “Boys get up!” to end of pg. 172

Students plant shoebox gardens!



Supplies:

Sterile soil, Seeds
Pencils for making holes to drop seeds
Popsicle sticks for labeling seedlings
Watering cans, Small trowels
Big bins with soil, newspaper

Seeds:

Beans
Peas
Spinach
Lettuce
Pumpkin
Radishes
Cucumber

Make a spring mix salad for students to taste:

- Bring lettuce pre washed and cut up
- Kids will peel carrots and radishes and turnips and apples
- Make dressing with the kids:

Garlic
Salt
Honey
Mustard
Olive oil
Vinegar
Pepper