

**Seed Pod**  
**Counting & Measuring in the Garden**  
2019 November  
3rd Grade Garden Parent Outdoor Activity

**Objective:** To reinforce larger number counting & concepts of measurement and scale (cm vs. m) in the school garden. To begin to collect seeds and seed pods for a 3rd grade seed library. Start to notice which plants' seed pods are starting to dry out. Continue to make observations about seed pod attributes: shape, number of points/sections, jagged or smooth, heavy or light, size, texture, color. Harvest Specimens, COUNT Seeds, draw seed pods and seeds, compose fictional story-poems.

**Time/location:** The entire lesson can be done in 35-45 minutes in the school garden.

**Materials:** Egg carton container to help students count in arrays. Envelopes, worksheet, clipboards, pencils

**Poem: Seeds (unknown internet)**

**Book: A Seed Is Sleepy** , Diana Hutts Aston & Sylvia Long (w/ Ms.Lewellyn in Library-Garden)

**The Lesson:**

**Part 1 / Seed Harvest & Count 30-35 min** In pairs, each team receives an egg carton, and two clipboards with the seed search worksheet. After finding all the seed pods, they find and take 1 specimen of the assigned seed pod/ **(Coneflower/Echinacea or Other)**

*Notice, which seed pods are dry, and which are still fresh (many plants have a mix due to the weather)*

**A worksheet will guide them through some math and literacy exercises:**

- 1- work together in pairs to dissect the pods, and count the total number of seeds per pod in 12 compartments of egg-carton- Round Up to estimate average number of seeds per pod.
- 2- Use pinky to estimate *the lengths*
- 3- Draw seed and seed pods, notice the color/texture difference between the purple pods (summery), and the dried pods (fall)- why do you think both are occurring on the same plant? What does this season feel like?
- 4- Compose their own fictional seed story-poem about their seed.

**Follow Up For Next Class** We'll collected and save the seeds and pods. In a follow-up activity, they can use their worksheet to design their own seed packets. Potentially using the pods for making prints. We can try planting the seeds or beans from seed in the late winter.

**Part 2 / Poetry & Movement (September) 5 min** Gather in a circle, and read this poem with a pantomime movement exercise.

**Seeds, Author Unknown**

Seeds are funny, funny things,  
Some have stickers Some have wings  
Some are big  
Some are small  
Some round and flat  
Some like a ball.  
Some are hidden inside of fruit  
Some in pods or underground roots.  
Some seeds are foods And good to eat,  
Like corn or beans Or nuts for a treat.

# Haldane Garden Fall Seed Pod Search

November



1\_



2\_ Turtlehead



3\_ Okra



4\_ Shiso



5\_ Garlic Chives



6\_ Drumstick  
Allium



7\_ Zinnia



8\_ Lab Lab Bean



9\_ Asters



10\_ Milkweed



11\_ Lion's Tail

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Seed Pod DRAW:

Seed COUNT:  
Use your egg carton to count total number of seeds in 12 egg cups.

Write a Math Equation that shows total Number of seeds:

Round Up to the Nearest 10:

Seed POEM: *Tell a story*

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