

Echinacea, Seasons, Weather

2016 Ms. Cretera's Garden Parents

Outdoor Lesson #3 - 10.19.2016

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Objective: Students will start to think about how plants change during different seasons, both in appearance, activity, feeling, parts of the plant.

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

Materials: Garden notebooks provided, being outdoors, Crayons outdoor garden, echinacea flower samples/ or growing.

The Lesson:

Part 1 / Echinacea

-Show a photo of Echinacea plant in all 4 seasons (It's also in the garden)/ Share map of growing area in North America. (native plant) Very interactive discussion, ask the kids about what season they think each photo shows, what are the weather conditions? What is happening to the plant here.

-Ask the kids what season they like to see plants in/ encourage appreciating the form of winter/ fall plants.

-Deep Breath Pause: Breathe in the air just the way the roots absorb in the water, feel it go to all parts of your body, (feel the water going up your trunk, into your branches, out to the leaves, make food, and evaporate) and breath out. (This works well to re-center / re-group/ re-inforce book's transpiration lesson- we did this at the beginning before Ms.Kelly presented the lesson, after the bustle of finding seat-mats)

Part 2 / A Flower in the Weather Movement Activity

-Ask the kids to be an echinacea flower (still nice and rooted; so we asked them to consider their personal space) and then we can lead them through the four seasons/with accompanying weather:

-weather movement pantomime. we call out a season & type of "weather!," we have them act out how an Echinacea flower would look/feel/move during that type of weather.

Summer!sunny and bright

fall!windy and cool,

winter!snow and Frozen,

spring!rain,and regrowth

Fair, Severe, weather.

Adaptation from here:<http://www.childdrama.com/seasons.html>

Part 3 / Project & Discussion (Garden Drawings)

- Ask kids to go into garden to find the most interesting/ beautiful/icky whatever plant they can find.

- Give clipboards and garden notebooks out and crayons and ask them to make a drawing of it

-**REMINDER: NOT TO PICK PLANTS THAT ARE ALIVE AND GROWING.**

-Come back together and give the kids a chance to show their favorite drawings.



