



GATHERING,
GROUPING AND
GUESSING GARDEN
OBJECTS

Six of One, Half Dozen of the Other

On the bottom of each egg carton, write two adjectives. One should be a likely quality of a garden object, such as “wet.” The other should be the opposite (“dry”). Use a variety of words that will encourage students to use their senses, such as dark/light, rough/smooth, scented/unscented, etc.

1. Ask the class what senses can be used to explore opposites in the garden. Ask students to share examples of opposites. Explain that in a few moments, they will be searching for objects that have a specific quality and those that have the opposite quality.
2. Divide the class into groups of three. Tell the class that each group will get a container for collecting 12 items. They should not let any other group see the secret information on the bottom of the carton.
3. Distribute the cartons and demonstrate to each group how the opposites will be placed, with six of each category in a long row. On the bottom of the carton are secret words that describe what kind of objects to collect. Each group will be collecting different opposites.
4. Remind students to handle everything gently and take only small specimens. Allow enough time for students to explore the site and gather objects.
5. When groups are finished, have them exchange cartons and determine the opposite adjectives the other groups collected without looking on the bottom of the carton.
6. Discuss strategies groups used to identify the other groups’ classification. Ask each group to share how they used their senses during this activity.

Objective: Students will use their senses to identify and classify objects in the garden laboratory.

Materials:

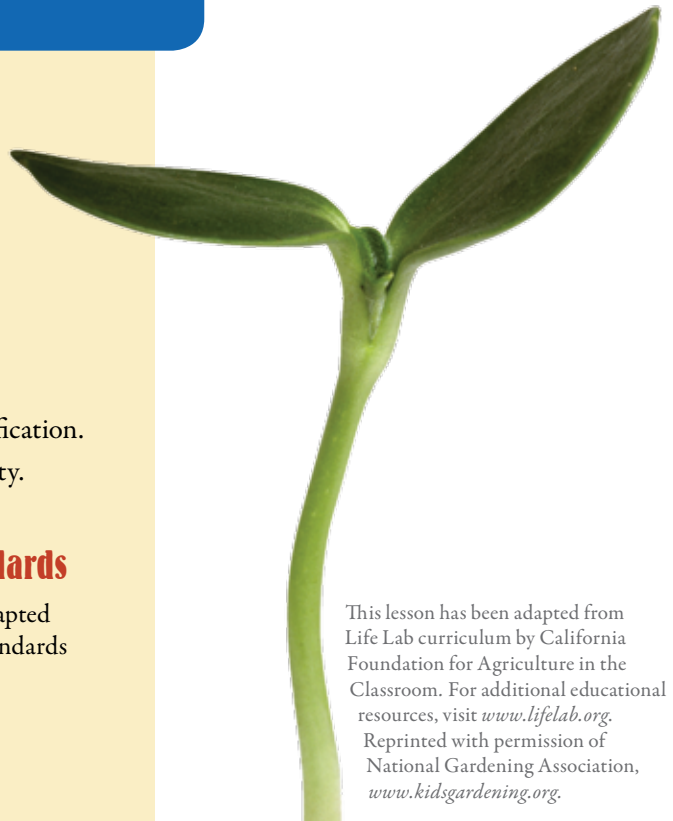
- One egg carton for each group of three

Vocabulary:

Adjective: the part of speech used to limit or describe the noun or pronoun it modifies, as in “wet” leaf.

Classification: the act of distributing things into classes or categories of the same type.

Specimen: a sample, especially one used for diagnostic analysis.



This lesson has been adapted from Life Lab curriculum by California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. For additional educational resources, visit www.lifelab.org. Reprinted with permission of National Gardening Association, www.kidsgardening.org.

California State Board of Education Content Standards

Grade 1: Science: 1a, 2a
Math: Statistics, data analysis, and probability 1.1

Grade 2: Science: 2d, 4a, 4c, 4g

Grade 3: Science: 5c
Math: Measurement and geometry 1.1

This lesson can be easily adapted to meet the educational standards for a variety of grade levels.