

## Beautiful Bulbs!

Don't let your students feel down about the summer ending. Get them looking forward to **spring** by planting **bulbs** this **fall**. This is a great outdoor activity to keep the garden going through the winter months, and give everyone something to look forward to next spring.

- You can plant bulbs one at a time using a bulb planter, or several together in a shallow trench.
- Turn the soil and add organic matter such as compost or peat moss.
- Throw away any bulbs that are soft. The bulb should feel firm to the touch.
- Plant your bulbs twice as deep as the diameter of the bulb (a two inch diameter bulb would need to go four inches into the ground), and pointed end up.
- Cover bulbs with soil after planting and a few inches of mulch.
- Water your new bulb garden when you are finished.

Students can make **garden markers** on index cards. Draw a picture of the flower that will appear in the spring on one card and the name of the flower on another card. Laminate the cards back to back, so the picture and name are facing out. Carefully slice a small opening at the bottom of the laminated card and insert a wooden skewer or large popsicle stick into it. Place these in the garden near the matching bulbs for easy identification in the spring.