

Garden Grid Math

A lesson from the New Jersey Agricultural Society Learning Through Gardening Program

Objective: The student will be able to

- explain that different vegetable plants have different space requirements and that these requirements are listed on the seed packet.
- work with a partner to plan a garden, using information on how far apart different vegetables should be planted.

Grades: 3-5

Materials:

six sheets of one-inch graph paper per group
Garden Grid vegetable instruction sheet
Garden Grid vegetable pictures sheet
seed packets



Procedure:

Begin a discussion by telling students that different vegetable plants need different amounts of space in a garden. Ask students why they think that is. Ask students where they think the information on the amount of space a vegetable needs to grow is found. Give students a few seed packets to pass around, showing them where the spacing information can be found.

Tell students that today they are going to work with a partner to design a garden, using information similar to that found on seed packet. They will be given information on how far apart from each other vegetables should be planted, and how big the rows between them should be.

Show students the one-inch graph paper and the one-inch vegetable squares and explain that on our grid, one inch will equal one foot. Demonstrate the garden design by placing a tomato on the grid and asking, "If I plant one tomato here, where can I plant the second one?"

Tell students they may use any combination of vegetables that they choose, as long as they follow the space requirements. Give students about 30 minutes to design their gardens with their partners.

Evaluation:

Garden grid completed according to the space requirements for each vegetable.

Extension:

Discuss whether students found anything difficult when creating their garden designs. Were they surprised by the amount of garden space some vegetables needed?

Name _____

Garden Grid

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Name _____

Garden Grid

Vegetables need space between them so they can get all the water and food they need. Some plants need more space than others. Plants like pumpkin and melons need plenty of space to spread out. Other plants, like radishes and onions, don't need as much space. Gardeners usually plant their vegetables in rows. That way they can walk between the plants and take care of them.



Use this chart to decide how much space to leave between your vegetables.
1 inch = 1 foot

Plant		and		2 feet apart, with 10 feet between rows.
	cantaloupe (<i>cantalupa</i>)		pumpkin (<i>calabaza</i>)	

Plant		and		less than 1 foot apart, with 2 feet between rows.
	carrots (<i>zanahoria</i>)		peas (<i>guicane</i>)	

Plant		3 feet apart, with 5 feet between rows.	Plant		1 foot apart, with 2 feet between rows.
	tomatoes (<i>tomate</i>)			okra (<i>quingombo</i>)	

Plant		less than 1 foot apart, with 1 foot between rows.	Plant		1 foot apart, with 3 feet between rows.
	radishes (<i>rabano</i>)			corn (<i>maiz</i>)	

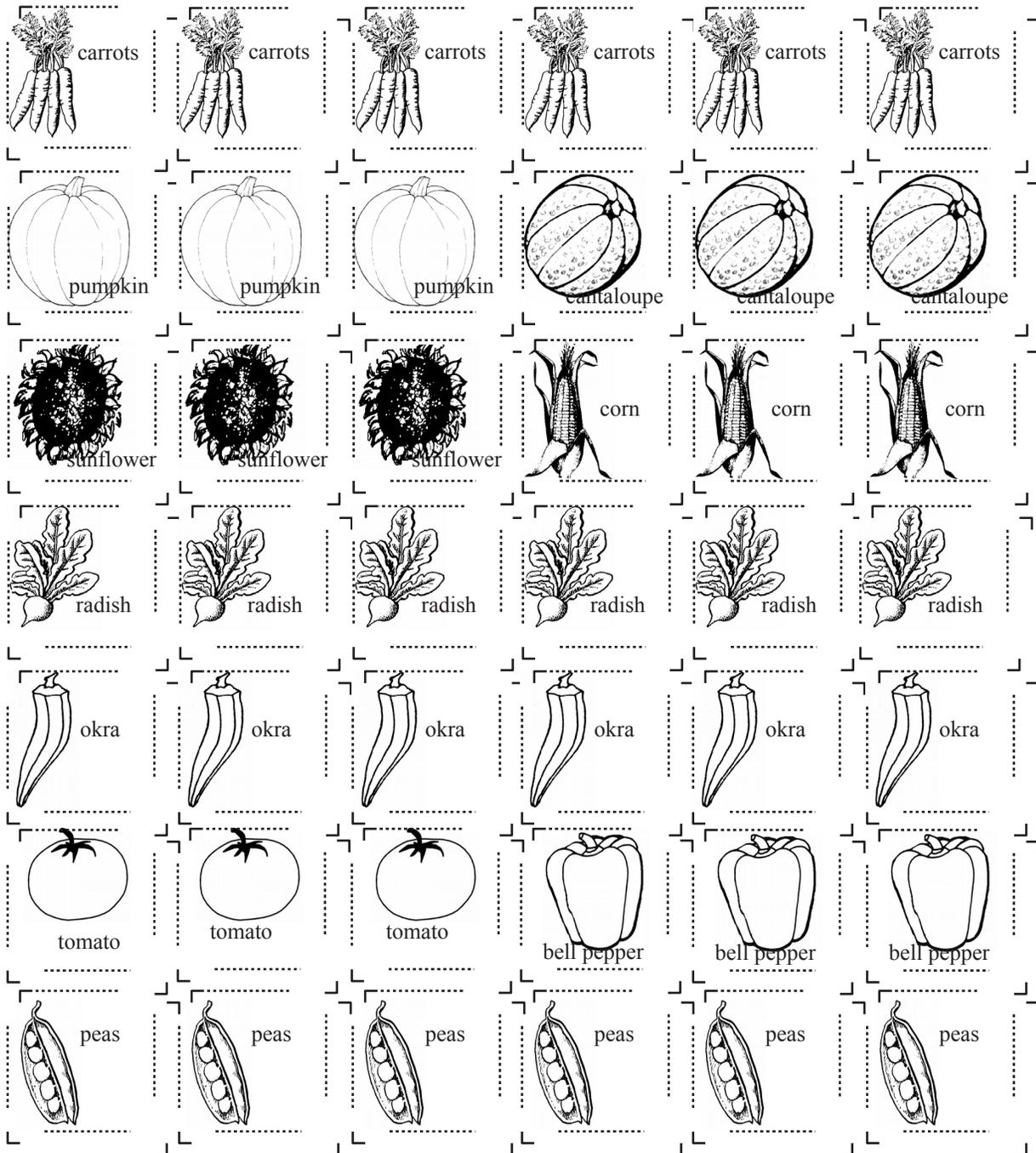
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Garden Grid

Color the vegetables, and cut the ones you want to plant in your garden. Place the vegetables in the grid your teacher provides. Use the chart on worksheet B to decide how much space each vegetable needs.

1 inch = 1 foot



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