

Karl, Get Out of the Garden!

Carolus Linnaeus and the Naming of Everything

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*Lesson ideas from the New Jersey Agricultural Society
Learning Through Gardening program*

GRADES: 3-5

SYNOPSIS: Carolus (Karl) Linnaeus started off as a curious child who loved exploring the garden. Despite his intelligence—and his mother's scoldings—he was a poor student, preferring to be outdoors with his beloved plants and bugs. As he grew up, Karl's love of nature led him to take on a seemingly impossible task: to give a scientific name to every living thing on earth. The result was the Linnaean system—the basis for the classification system used by scientists around the world today.



This charming book describes the challenges Karl Linnaeus faced when trying to name 12,000 different plants and insects, as well as the ridicule he first faced from the scientific community.

ACTIVITIES:

- Start a class discussion and list all of the challenges Karl faced when he began his quest to name all living things. Then make a list of the challenges children at your grade level face and discuss how students overcame them.
- Students develop a class-wide system of naming themselves based on their characteristics. The class must choose a common name as the first name and then each child chooses his own name based on what he likes most about himself.
- In small groups of three or four, students choose one vegetable or fruit that is grown in the school garden. The group researches the scientific name for that vegetable or fruit and then looks for others fruits and vegetables that are in the same immediate family with the same first name.
- In small groups or individually, students create a fictional fruit or vegetable and then create a Latin-sounding name for it.

New Jersey Learning Standards

English Language Arts: 3:RI.3.1-7 4:RI.4.1,2,4 5:RI.5.1,2,4

Social Studies: 3-5:6.1.5.EconNM.4