

Why People Need Plants

*A lesson from the New Jersey Agricultural Society
Learning Through Gardening program*

OVERVIEW: This lesson teaches students how important plants are to people. We use plants for food, shelter, clothing, fuel, medicine, and many other things. While learning how plants live and grow, it's important for students to understand how much we get from plants.

GRADES: K-3, *can be modified for older students*

OBJECTIVE: The student will be able to:

- Name many of the things people depend upon plants for – including food, shelter, and clothing,



MATERIALS:

People Need Plants worksheet one for each group of four or five students

We Use Plants For chart

Examples of things made from plants, which can include:

cotton clothing	flour	wooden block	sugar
maple syrup	fruit	paper	vegetable
biodegradable plastic fork or spoon	balloon filled with air	perfume	chocolate

PROCEDURE:

Organize students into small groups. Without explaining the purpose of the lesson, give each group the same number of some of the plant products listed in the Materials section. (Tell the students to ignore the balloon and focus on the air inside.) It is not necessary for each group to have the same items. Ask the groups to discuss what is the same about all the items and where they came from. If necessary, guide the groups toward the conclusion that all the items came from plants.

Make the following *We Use Plants For* chart on the board or large paper. Bring the whole class together and ask students to complete the chart. Students can either write their answers or draw and color a picture of the item and add it to the chart.

We Use Plants For			
Shelter	Food	Clothing	Other

Discuss how everything we eat and many things we use come directly or indirectly from plants. Encourage your students to brainstorm other things that come from plants.

EVALUATION:

Student will list several things people use that come from plants OR completed *People Need Plants* worksheet.

EXTENSION:

Have students write letters to plants thanking them for providing all the resources that they do.

Make a collage of things that come from plants.

New Jersey Learning Standards

Social Studies: K-2:6.1.2.EconET.1, 6.1.2.EconEM.1, 6.1.2.EconEM.2
3:6.1.5.EconEM.2

NAME _____

People Need Plants

Think of all the ways we use plants. Make a list of the things that we get from plants.

