

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 - food, shelter, clothing, among
- many other things.



Materials (for each group of four or five students)

Gather examples of things made from plants, which can include:

a piece of clothing made from cotton

flour

wooden block

fruit

granulated sugar

maple syrup

perfume

piece of paper

vegetable

biodegradable plastic fork or spoon

balloon filled with air

piece of 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.

Bring the whole class together and ask students to complete the following 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.

NAME _____

People Need Plants Homework Sheet

Look around your home. Think of all the ways we use plants. Make a list of the things you find at home that we get from plants.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

