

Non-fiction text – Seed packets literacy

Finding and using information from a non-fiction text

Aim: To use seed packets to obtain key information

This is an engaging task for all but especially for those interested in plants and growing; the class will obtain information and make a practical plan. If you are planning a vegetable growing project, the seed packets are a great resource for helping pupils to gather relevant information from a printed source.

You may decide to plant for a summer feast, at the end of June, so the pupils would need to use a calendar planner to work out the planting dates for each of the vegetables that are required for the feast!

Seed packets are laid out differently, and some do not have the handy month chart to help the planning of sowing and harvesting.

Activity:

- Discuss the purpose of the vegetables you are planning to sow, such as a summer outdoor feast, or to have a long season of veg to harvest to see sell at regular cake/produce sales.
- Pupils read plant descriptions, find out when and how to sow the seeds, and plan for harvesting.
- Split the class into two groups, one is the *seed sowing group* and one is a *vegetable harvesting group*.
- Each group needs to work out when the **earliest** sowing dates/harvesting dates for their selection of vegetables.
- Set up two 'months of the year' lines outside in the playground on a 100 square grid, underneath each other. One represents seed sowing times, and the other is harvesting times.
- Each child takes their seed packet and places it on the line showing the correct seed earliest sowing date or harvesting date – place small stones on top of the seed packets to stop them blowing away if it is windy.
- The result is a conversation starter to discuss which plants should be sown when to mature at the right time for harvesting for the planned event.
- Photograph the result and use it to do it for real to plan your sowing and harvesting.
- Get sowing!



Resources:

- A variety of seed packets
- Chalk to mark months of the year along two lines in the playground.
- A stone/weight for each seed packet to stop it blowing away in the wind!

More springboards/sources:

- Science learning springboards relating to growing.
- RHS website school gardening plant growing sheets.

Success criteria:

- ✓ I can interpret information presented in a range of formats to create a practical growing plan
- ✓ I can follow a plan



RHS School gardening