

Forget-Me-Not in a Pot

by Deanna James, Mears Middle School

Materials

- small planting pots for each student
- potting soil
- forget-me-not seeds
- grow light
- watering can

Objectives

To increase awareness of Alaska and Alaska's state flower; to learn proper plant care; to increase job-related skills; to introduce a leisure activity (such as plant care)

Suggested grade levels

7th and 8th grade
Special Education Life Skills classroom; special education and regular education classrooms
elementary level - 7th grade with variations



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Introduction

The Forget-Me-Not is Alaska's state flower and growing it will introduce students to gardening, plant care and the state symbols.

Discuss

"Now that we know what the state flower of Alaska is, we are going to do an experiment and grow forget-me-not plants in our classroom." Show students a list of the materials needed (use Boardmaker pictures for picture readers) and have students gather materials at work station.

Have steps outlined (with picture cues) 1. choose a pot; 2. scoop dirt into pot, up to the line designated by teacher; 3. poke a hole in the dirt; 4. drop seeds (given by teacher) into the hole; 5. cover seed hole with dirt (specified by teacher); 6. water seed pot lightly.

Teacher should model each step, then allow students to follow the step. Discuss the next step, model the step, and allow students to follow until planting is complete.

Model

Teacher models each step in the planting and caring sequence, allowing students to follow modeled steps with supervision. Steps should also be outlined with picture cues for students to follow.

Prior to the Session

Hang a grow light in classroom and add household plants underneath. Assign "plant care" to students' daily school jobs. Students will get used to having plants in the room and caring for them.

Alaska should be discussed prior to the lesson, as well. Develop an "Alaska" book for students to work through, outlining areas of study. Symbols of the State of Alaska should be an area of study within the book. Symbols may include the state flag, state bird, state tree, and should include the state flower (forget-me-not). Have students research the state flower (which may be done as easily as looking at a picture of the forget-me-not in a book designated by the teacher) and identify the characteristics of the flower. Students should either draw a picture of the state flower, or color a picture of the flower on a worksheet.

Variations

Adapt to fit individual states. Conduct control experiments (place seed pots in dark, in cold, in no-water environment, etc.) and see how plants grow.

Additional Activities

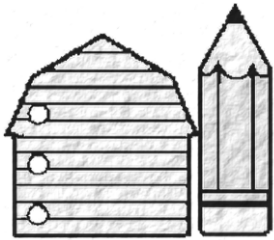
Measuring growth, daily photo of plants as they grow to create a growth video, charting and graphing, learning and incorporating sign language (flower, blue, yellow, black, white, green, etc.)...

Assessment

Completion of the activity, by following teacher's planting and care instructions, should result in plant growth. Assessment of objectives met will also be based on individual student objectives, outlined in IEP with described data collection.

Alaska Content Standards

E/LA-B, B1, B2
Math E, E2, E3
SHL-B, B4, D2
Science A14a, B
Geography B5
Culture E2
(see details in text)



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Standards Addressed

Alaska State Standard E/LA-B and Alaska State Alternate Achievement Standards E/LA-B1 and E/LA-B2 for English/Language Arts (viewing/reading directions and comprehending/following directions). Alaska State Standard Math E and Alaska State Alternate Achievement Standard M-E2 and M-E3 for Math (if measuring amount of soil and depth for seed hole). Alaska State Standard SHL-B and Alaska State Alternate Achievement Standard SHL-B4 and SHL-D2 (learning to plant/garden as a leisure activity/hobby and contributing to well-being of class through plant care job). Alaska Content Standard for Science A14-a and Science B. Alaska Content Standards for Geography B5. Alaska Content Standards for Cultural Standards E2.