



Seed Necklace

ALABAMA OUTDOOR CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Grade Levels

K-3

Overview

During this activity, the students will collect a variety of seeds and then use them to create a seed necklace.

Subject Areas

Biology, Visual Arts, Mathematics and Environmental Sciences

Duration

2-3 periods of 45 minutes

Learning Objectives

Students will 1) learn the parts of a seed as they collect and examine them; 2) classify and sort seeds based on observable characteristics; and 3) learn why seeds are important to plants and wildlife.

Alabama Course of Study Objectives

Science:

Kindergarten: 1, 6, 7 & 9

First: 2 & 4,

Second: 1, 5 & 10

Third: 7 & 13

Mathematics:

Kindergarten: 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 & 10

First: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 & 13

Second: 1, 2, 6, 5, 10 & 11

Third: 1, 7, & 10

Vocabulary

Seed, Mast, Monocot, Dicot

Materials

- Bag for collecting seeds
- A large variety of seeds (acorns, hickory nuts, pecan, etc.)
- Blunt needles
- Nylon fishing line or heavy cord
- Electric drill with small drill bit (for adult use)

Background Info

The season of the year that we know as fall was originally referred to as the harvest season. However, as fewer people made their living working the land and moved into the towns, the word harvest lost its reference to the time of year and became associated only with the actual activity of harvesting crops. During the 17th century, as English immigration to North America was at its peak, the term fall became the preferred name for this season of the year.

During the fall, the seeds of many trees and other plants finally reach maturity and are then dispersed by various means (wind, water, animals, or gravity). Some of these seeds become food for animals such as deer, turkeys, and squirrels while many others will just decay. A few of these seeds will sprout and grow, making sure that future generations of plants are available to cover the earth.

Preparation

Before you can do this activity, you will need to gather both a variety and large quantity of seeds that are big enough for the students to use as beads on a necklace. As you prepare to collect the seeds needed for this activity, you should inventory the trees around your school to see if you have any trees that produce nuts such as oaks, hickories, and pecans or pods such as the red bud. You can also use seeds from some of the garden plants such as beans, corn, and sunflowers.



If you do not have enough sources of seeds on the school campus then you will need to gather seeds at some of your local parks, cemeteries or have the students collect them at home. You can also purchase seeds such as lima beans from the local grocery store for this activity, of course it is preferable for students to gather the seeds themselves

Once the seeds are collected, a hole will need to be drilled through each seed so that it can be strung on a cord. This can be done by sending seeds home with parents that are willing to drill the holes for you in advance of the activity or have the parent volunteers come to the school and do the drilling. Once the holes are drilled, the students are ready to begin the activity.

Procedure

1) To begin this activity, have the students gather seeds from a variety of trees and other plants such as oaks, pecans, and hickories. They can also gather pods from trees such as red buds or garden seeds from sunflowers, beans and corn.



Seed Necklace

ALABAMA OUTDOOR CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Literature Connections:

Carle, Eric. The Tiny Seed.
ISBN-10:0689842449

Lucado, Max & Angelini, George. The Oak Inside the Acorn.
ISBN-10:1400306019

Outdoor Classroom Connection

Students will learn to identify seeds from a variety of plants that grow in the outdoor classroom. They will learn the importance of seeds as a food source as well as providing us with future generations of plants.

Other Related Conservation Education Activities

Project Learning Tree

- ⇒ *Have Seeds, Will Travel*
- ⇒ *Signs of Fall*
- ⇒ *Tree Lifecycle*
- ⇒ *Germinating Giants*
- ⇒ *The Shape of Things*

Access Nature

- ⇒ *Nature Scavenger Hunt*

Discovering Alabama Video

- ⇒ *Alabama Trees*
- ⇒ *A Walk in the Woods*

Page 2 of 2

Procedure continued

2. Once the seeds are collected, have an adult drill a small hole through the seed from side to side or end to end. Make sure the hole is large enough to allow the necklace cord to be threaded through the hole using a blunt needle.
3. Cut a piece of cord for each child so that he can create his own harvest necklace. The cord needs to be long enough so that when the ends of the cord are connected (don't tie them yet), the necklace can still slip over his or her head.
4. Once the seeds are drilled, let the children select a variety of seeds to place on their necklace cords. Encourage them to create a repeating pattern using the seeds such as the following:
acorn-pecan-hickory-acorn-pecan-hickory
5. Once they have their seeds selected, thread a blunt needle onto the cord and tie a knot in one end so that the seeds don't slip off as they are threaded.
6. Carefully slide the needle through the predrilled hole in each seed.
7. Once they are finished threading their seeds onto the cord, tie the ends together.
8. The students are now ready to proudly wear their seed necklace.

Extensions

Language Arts:

- Have the students write about the life of a plant from seed to maturity and its many adventures along the way.

Mathematics:

- Have the students count the seeds to see how many of each variety was collected.
- Have the students use the seeds to create patterns as mentioned above. Have other students see if they can figure out the pattern.
- Have the students use a balance scale to see how many sunflower seeds equals one acorn. Do this with a variety of comparisons.

Social Studies:

- Have the students look at the foods they eat and determine which ones come from seeds (wheat, corn, oats, peanuts, etc.)



The Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program is a partnership between:



Alabama Cooperative
Extension System



Alabama Wildlife Federation

www.alabamawildlife.org/classrooms/



Alabama Department of
Conservation & Natural Resources