



Recommended Grades: 5-8

Subjects:

- Life Science
- Environmental Science

In these lessons, students will...

- Feel
- Explore
- Create
- Plant
- Play
- Connect
- Discuss

Introduction

'Garbage to Gardens' is a set of lessons designed to introduce students to the concept of the "recycled garden." The activities were initially developed by the Smithsonian Gardens Green Team for use as educational demonstrations, and then later expanded upon by our Education department to promote environmental awareness to our visitors and local communities.

'Garbage to Gardens' addresses several issues pertaining to sustainability including water conservation, recycling, and natural gardening techniques. Students will be involved in hands-on activities ranging from creating compost to exploring the quantity of available water on earth. We want students to feel critically engaged with the environment around them and understand their role in it.

The activities can be used either individually or as a unit; if used as a unit, it is recommended to go through the activities in the order provided. However, we encourage you to amend them to suit your needs.

National Standards:

- 21st Century Skills
 - [Creativity & Innovation](#)
 - Communication & Collaboration
 - [Collaborate with Others](#)
 - [Critical Thinking & Problem Solving](#)
 - [Environmental Literacy](#)
- Common Core
 - [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.3](#)
 - [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.7](#)