Garden of Eden

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. Genesis 2:8-9, 15

Introduction
In Genesis we learn how much God loves us. We learn that He created the Earth as a perfect garden for us to live in where all of our needs can be met. We have plants to eat, water to drink, sun to warm us, and friends and family to help us. Just like Adam and Eve in the Garden, we, too, live in a world that God created, and that can provide for all we need.

Yet this perfect creation is also a garden for all the other plants and animals on Earth. In order for God’s creation to remain perfect for us, and for all of the Earth’s people, plants, and animals, we must share it with one another. As we think about how the Earth that God has given us is perfect for all of the life forms living on it, we should reflect on how much we depend on the Earth—and how much each living thing depends on us!

When we look at the natural world around us we see how perfectly it all fits together: the rain falls to water the plants, the plants grow to feed animals and people, the wind blows to carry clouds across the sky. During the day the sun shines to warm us and at night, when the sun no longer shines, the sky is filled with countless beautiful stars and the moon to light our way. Like a great jigsaw puzzle, each part of nature fits perfectly with all of the other parts—and together they form a majestic picture of God’s creation.

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Prayer of Intercession for Earth Day

Creator God, you make all things
and weave them together in an intricate tapestry of life.

Teach us to respect the fragile balance of life
and to care for all the gifts of your creation.

Guide by your wisdom those who have power and authority,
that, by the decisions they make, life may be cherished
and a good and fruitful Earth may continue
to show your glory and sing your praises.

Almighty God,
you have called us to tend and keep the garden of your creation.

Give us wisdom and reverence for all your plants and animals
who share this planet with us and whose lives make possible our own.

Help us to remember that they too love the sweetness of life
and join with us in giving you praise.

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Song

God’s Garden Faire

Scatter seeds and watch them grow.
Tend the plants the way you know.
Share the harvest! Share the harvest!
God’s Garden Faire. (Shout: “GOOD FOOD!”)

Pulling carrots, orange and long,
Fill each other with the song!
Munching carrots, crunching carrots
God’s Garden Faire. (Shout: “GOOD FOOD!”)

Somppi’s rhubarb, long and red
Grew from what we thought was dead.
In the Springtime! In the Summer!
God’s Garden Faire. (Shout: “GOOD FOOD!”)

Yellow corn will soon be here.
Husk it clean and give a cheer!
Freeze it now or eat it fresh.
It’s God’s Garden Faire. (Shout: “GOOD FOOD!”)

Luscious apples, here we come!
Apple sauce and pie, yum, yum!
Gravensteins or Romes... Delicious!
God’s Garden Faire. (Shout: “GOOD FOOD!”)

Scrumptious peaches make us grin,
Juice that trickles off our chin
When we bite! It’s so amazing!
God’s Garden Faire. (Shout: “GOOD FOOD!”)

To hear the melody for this song, visit John Pitney’s website. It’s the fourth song on the album, Walk Lightly on the Earth, at the bottom of the webpage.

Garden of Eden Planter

Time Needed: 1 hour

Materials:
- Bible (story of the Garden of Eden)
- Felt of different colors
- Construction paper of different colors
- Magazines (to cut out pictures)
- Cotton balls
- Small crafting supplies like buttons, pipe cleaners, etc.
- White craft glue or tape
- Gallon plastic ice cream buckets or milk jugs
- Scissors or craft knife

Instructions:
1. Read the story of the Garden of Eden to the children. (Genesis 2:4-10, 15-23).
2. Tell the children that they will be making their own versions of Eden to grow something in. Have an adult use scissors or a craft knife to cut the tops of the jugs off. Also, poke some holes in the bottom for drainage.
3. Make sure not to cut off the handle.
4. Have an adult turn jug upside down and poke several holes into the bottom for drainage.
5. Glue the photos, pictures, and/or craft items onto the jug. (You may have to use some tape to help the items stick onto the plastic.)
6. Let children glue them wherever they please.
7. Set the jugs aside to dry.
8. Fill with small rocks and potting soil and plant seeds or seedlings when ready.

Tips:
1. Make sure each child has their name on their jug planter. Use a permanent marker.
2. These jugs are meant to be kept inside or placed outside where they won’t be exposed to wind or rain.
3. See page A-21, Plant Your Own Plants, for further instructions for using the Garden of Eden Planter.
Edible Plant Parts

Roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds are the six basic plant parts. People, animals, and insects eat plants for nutrients and energy.

Materials:
- Edible Plant Parts Cards (see pages A-6 to A-19)

Instructions:
1. Reproduce the edible plant cards on cardstock or recycled cardboard. Have the students color the pictures. Cut the cards on the dotted lines. Place string on each card so that the students can hang the cards around their necks.
2. You will need 28 participants for this activity. If you have more than 28 you can assign a few students special jobs such as being a “checker” or a “materials” person or have two students represent one card. If you have less than 28, you can eliminate cards by cutting two consecutive cards in half and eliminating the halves that correspond to one another. Then tape together the leftover halves to form a new card. You can’t simply take a whole card out because each one leads to the next one.
3. Shuffle the cards. Pass out one card to each student and have each read the card and then place it around their neck so it is visible to the other students.
4. The object of the activity is for the class to make a human ring that has all of the foods in the proper order. Begin by having one student read their card aloud. (If your students are nonreaders, you can read the cards). This student is the beginning of the ring. The student who has the correct answer will read their card aloud and then stand as part of the ring. Continue until the human ring is formed. When done correctly, everyone should be a part of the ring.
5. After the class has done the activity properly, redistribute the cards so everyone has a new food. Do the activity again! This time a little quicker. You can time the activity and have the students try to beat their time if desired.

Adapted with permission from Edible Plant Parts by Karen Chambers and Pamela Emery of the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.
I AM A KIWIFRUIT.

WHO IS A GREEN VEGETABLE WHOSE FLOWERING BUD LEAVES WE EAT AND YOU LOOK LIKE A BABY CABBAGE?

I AM A BRUSSELS SPROUT.

WHO IS THE STATE THAT GROWS MORE FOOD THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE UNITED STATES?
I AM CALIFORNIA.

WHO IS A FRUIT THAT CAN BE DRIED TO MAKE RAISINS?

I AM GRAPES.

WHO IS A SEED PEOPLE EAT RAW OR ROASTED THAT GROWS ON TREES?
I AM AN ALMOND.

WHO IS THE WORD THAT MEANS "VEGETATION YOU PUT ON THE TABLE"?

I AM VEGETABLES.

WHO IS A GREEN FRUIT THAT, WHEN MASHED, MAKES A TOPPING FOR MEXICAN FOOD AND A DIP FOR CHIPS?
I AM AN AVOCADO.

WHO IS A FRUIT IN THE SQUASH FAMILY THAT IS GROWN FOR THANKSGIVING AND HALLOWEEN?

I AM A PUMPKIN.

WHO IS A RED FRUIT USED TO MAKE LOTS OF SAUCES?
I AM A TOMATO.

WHO IS A MIXTURE OF GRAINS THAT COWS EAT?

I AM SILAGE, A FOOD FOR ANIMALS.

WHO IS A PLANT THAT MAKES FIBER FOR CLOTHES?
I AM COTTON.

WHO IS A GRAIN (A SEED) THAT GROWS IN A VERY WET FIELD?

I AM RICE.

WHO IS A GREEN LEAF USED IN SALADS THAT HAS A VERY "COLD" NAME?
I AM ICEBERG LETTUCE.

WHO IS AN ORANGE ROOT, FULL OF VITAMIN A?

I AM A CARROT.

WHO IS A WHITE FLOWER PEOPLE EAT?
I AM CAULIFLOWER.

WHO IS A GREEN STEM THAT IS SOMETIMES EATEN WITH PEANUT BUTTER OR CREAM CHEESE?

I AM CELERY.

WHO IS A RED FRUIT THAT HAS LOTS OF TINY SEEDS ON ITS OUTSIDE?
I AM A STRAWBERRY.

WHO IS A BLACK OR GREEN FRUIT THAT IS SOMETIMES PUT ON PIZZAS?

I AM AN OLIVE.

WHO IS A YELLOW, GREEN, OR BROWN TREE FRUIT THAT FEELS GRITTY WHEN YOU EAT IT?
I AM A PEAR.

WHO IS A VEGETABLE WITH UNDERGROUND LEAVES THAT MAKES EYES WATER?

I AM AN ONION.

WHO IS AN GREEN EDIBLE FLOWER THAT HAS POINTY ENDS?
I AM AN ARTICHOKE.

WHO IS A SOUR YELLOW CITRUS FRUIT?

I AM A LEMON.

WHO IS A GRAIN USED TO MAKE MOST BREADS IN THE UNITED STATES?
I AM WHEAT.

WHO IS A LEAF THAT POPEYE EATS?

I AM SPINACH.

WHO IS A FUZZY FRUIT THAT CAN BE EATEN FRESH OR CANNED?
I AM A PEACH.

WHO IS A WHITE ROOT THAT LOOKS SOMewhat LIKE A CARROT?

I AM A PARSNIP.

WHO IS A PINKISH MELON FRUIT THAT CONTAINS BLACK SEEDS BUT SOMETIMES CAN BE SEEDLESS?
I AM A WATERMELON.

WHO IS AN UNDERGROUND STEM CALLED A TUBER THAT COMES IN THE VARIETIES RUSSET, RED AND WHITE?

I AM A POTATO.

WHO IS A BROWN FURRY-SKINNED FRUIT THAT HAS BLACK SEEDS?
Applesauce

Makes 10 servings.

Children can help prepare this entire snack under the supervision of adults. Vegetable peelers and apple slicers are easy to use, but will require demonstration by an adult and supervision at all times. Refer to the kitchen safety rules in the curriculum’s introduction for additional guidance.

**Time Needed:** 20 minutes

**Ingredients:**
- 10 Gala apples or other sweet variety
- 10 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 ½ tsp. cinnamon

**Instructions:**
1. Peel the apples and cut them into small pieces. Compost the cores.
2. Put the apple pieces and lemon juice into a blender or food processor and mix until the applesauce reaches the consistency you desire (e.g., smooth or chunky).
3. Empty the applesauce into a bowl and add in the cinnamon. Mix well.

**COMPLETE THE MEAL:**
Serve with cheese slices or sprinkle a handful of almonds on the applesauce.
**Plant Our Own Plants**

God planted the Garden of Eden full of things for people to eat. Today the children will plant their own edible plant for them to watch, care for, and eventually eat. Select a plant that is easy to care for, suitable to the climate, and will produce a fairly kid-friendly vegetable.

**Time Needed:** 1 hour

**Materials:**
- Pots (plastic recyclables, old jars, etc)
- Small rocks for drainage
- Gardening soil
- Shovel or old cup for scooping soil
- Seeds (cherry tomatoes, lettuce, beans). TIP: Don’t plant root vegetables like beets, carrots, turnips, etc. in pots as they won’t grow well in them.
- Watering can

**Preparation:**
1. If possible, divide the soil into smaller buckets so that multiple children can work at a time.
2. If doing this activity inside, consider covering the tables with newspaper.

**Instructions:**
1. Instruct the children to put a one-inch layer of small rocks at the bottom of their pot. This will allow excess water to drain properly.
2. Add enough soil to fill the jug or pot 3/4 of the way (or more or less depending on the seeds selected).
3. Plant, cover, and water the seeds according to the directions included on the seed packets.
4. Place finished pots in a sunny place either inside or outside, depending on the weather forecast. If using milk jugs, they will not withstand windy or rainy weather.
Egg Salad

Makes 10 servings.

Time Needed: 30 minutes

Ingredients:
- 10 hard-boiled eggs, preferably certified
- ¼ cup low-fat mayonnaise
- ¾ cup celery, chopped
- ¼ cup onions, chopped
- 2 Tbsp mustard
- Salt and pepper
- Dash of paprika (optional)
- 20 Slices of 100% whole wheat or whole grain bread
- 10 Leaves of Lettuce
- 10 Slices of tomato

Instructions:
1. Add eggs and water in a saucepan. Bring water to a boil, and then turn off the heat. Cover the pan and let the eggs sit untouched, in the hot water, for 17 minutes. (To test if the eggs have been fully cooked, try to spin one on its side. If it spins, it is done.)
2. Plunge the eggs into a bowl of ice water until cool.
3. Mash eggs in a small bowl with a fork. Stir in mayonnaise, celery, onion, mustard, salt, and pepper until combined.
4. Assemble sandwiches with bread, lettuce, tomato slices, and egg salad.

COMPLETE THE MEAL:
Serve with orange slices and milk or milk alternative.
Vegetable Markers

Time Needed: 30 minutes

Materials:
- Jumbo Popsicle Sticks
- Construction Paper
- Stencils or Pictures of Fruits and Vegetables
- Markers and Colored Pencils
- Glue

Instructions:
1. To create markers (for use in the garden or in the Eden planters), participants can use stencils or free draw fruits and vegetables. Cut out the pictures and glue to popsicle sticks. If they will be used outside, they should be laminated first so they can hold up to weather. If they are to be used inside, they can be added to potted plants or the Eden planters as they are.

Alternative method:
Children can label the vegetables they have planted by drawing on the popsicle sticks themselves instead of using paper.
Storytime

Uno’s Garden by Graeme Base

When Uno arrives in the forest one beautiful day, there are many fascinating and extraordinary animals there to greet him—and one entirely unexceptional Snortlepig. Uno loves the forest so much, he decides to live there. But, in time, a little village grows up around his house. Then a town, then a city . . . and soon Uno realizes that the animals and plants have begun to disappear.

Earth Mother by Ellen Jackson

The circle of life turns in unexpected ways. Earth Mother awakes with the dawn. As she walks the land, swims the seas, and climbs the mountains, nurturing all of creation, she comes across Man, Frog, and Mosquito. They each give her thanks for nature’s bounty, yet can’t help but give her advice about making their lives better.

Everybody’s got an opinion, it seems, and Earth Mother is amused when it becomes clear that the circle of life is not without a healthy dose of cosmic humor.
Rainy Day Option: Learning about Bees

Bees and other pollinators are very important workers in gardens and on farms. Without them we wouldn’t get to enjoy many of our favorite fruits! Bees pollinate flowering plants by transferring the nectar or pollen from flower to flower. They also produce honey for human consumption.

Time Needed: 45 minutes

Materials:
- Book about bees. Select a book that details the life of bees and how they make honey. Here’s a few we recommend:
  - *Bee and Me*, by Elle J. McGuinness
  - *Honey: A Gift From Nature*, by Yukimo Fujiwara
  - *Are You a Bee?* by Judy Allen
- Copies of the coloring page that follows
- Optional: enough copies of the insect dominoes for groups of 3-4 children to play together. Consider using cardstock and/or laminating to save for future use.

Instructions:
1. Read the book to the children and ask them questions about bees while they color the coloring page that follows.
   - What is honey good for? What can we put it in?
   - How do bees work together? Do people work in teams like that? When?
2. If time allows, form groups of 3-4 children to play insect dominoes.

*Coloring page and insect dominoes used with permission from BusyBeesKidsPrintables.com.*
Insect Dominoes

INSTRUCTIONS
1. Mix up the dominoes and place them face down
2. Each player takes 4 dominoes from the pile, don't show them to anyone!
3. Youngest goes first and lays down a domino. The next person has to lay down a domino with a picture that matches one that's already there. If a player can't go they pick up from the pile and miss their turn.
4. Play until all the dominos are gone