

# Colors, Shapes, ABC's in the Garden

*Recommended Grade Level:*

Pre-K-2

*Season:*

Growing seasons in  
your area

Outdoor

## **Description:**

Students will learn about data collection and using different criteria for collecting information. Using one of the In the Garden worksheets or garden journals, the students will learn about organizing their space to investigate data including colors, shapes and ABC's in the garden.

## **Background:**

For young learners, the garden is an exciting way to explore their world and is loaded with colors, shapes and ABC's. Being outside is an added health benefit for the students, because it gets them up and moving. By incorporating movement into their day, the students learn better and are more engaged during their learning activities. This lesson will introduce the concept of data collection and narrowing a search for information while learning in the garden.

## **Materials:**

- In the Garden Worksheets:
  - Colors in the Garden
  - Shapes in the Garden
  - ABC's in the Garden
- Clipboards for worksheets

## **Preparation:**

1. Make copies of the In the Garden Worksheet that you'll be using for each student. It is recommended to pick one concept at a time to explore.
2. A quick review of colors, shapes or ABC's may be needed. Some Pre-K and kindergarten students may not have mastered ABC's; so use a different worksheet.
3. Students can use the clipboards for their worksheets or tape/glue them in their journal to write down their discoveries.

**Activity:**

1. Walk into the garden and point out items that have the characteristics of what students will be exploring on their hunt (colors, shapes or ABC's). Show students several examples.
2. Tell the students that they will be exploring the garden looking for data about colors, shapes or ABC's. Explain that data is information that you collect.
3. Send the students out into the garden to gather data and record it on their In the Garden Worksheet.
4. When all students have finished, gather them in a central place or back in the classroom to share their findings.

**Tying it Together:**

1. What did we look for in the garden today?
2. What did we find out about colors, shapes or ABC's in the garden?
3. Which color, shape or ABC did we see the most?
4. Which color, shape or ABC did we see the least?
5. How does data collecting help us learn about things?

*When we gather information and write it down, it helps us remember what we saw and we can share our information with others.*

**Special Care:**

Younger students may not be able to write words or know their ABC's, colors and shapes. This activity could be done as a whole group and the teacher could collect the data for the group. In the classroom, the teacher could model how to organize the data on paper and students could participate in a group or in individual journals copying what the teacher writes down.

**Digging Deeper:**

Collect the same data during different seasons. Compare the results of what you find in the spring vs. fall or winter.

**National Standards:**

**CCSS.ELA**

- Foundational skills: Print concepts
- Foundational skills: Phonological awareness
- Foundational skills: Phonics and word recognition

**CCSS.MATH**

- Counting and cardinality
- Measurement and data
- Geometry

**Lesson Extensions:**

**Language Arts:** Make an alphabet book about ABC's in the garden.

**Math:** Look for different attributes: plants that have pointy, rounded or feathered leaves; plants that have seeds; bugs in the garden; etc.

**Science:** Collect data on other items in the garden: temperature of soil; compost; outdoor temperature; rainwater; height of plants; etc.

**Social Studies:** Take the students out to find "treasures" (healthy foods) in the garden. Then create a treasure map of the garden.

**Literature Connections:**

*The Vegetable Alphabet Book* by Jerry Pallotta, Bob Thomson and Edgar Stewart

*Over Under in the Garden: An Alphabet Book* by Pat Schories

*Pick a Circle, Gather Squares: A Fall Harvest of Shapes* by Felicia Sanzari Chernesky

## Shapes in the Garden



Circle



Triangle



Rectangle



Square



Sphere



Cube



Cone



Cylinder

## ABC's in the Garden

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X
Y	Z		

## Colors in the Garden

Red	Orange
Yellow	Green
Blue	Purple