

Name: _____

Date: _____

ORGANIC GARDENING RESEARCH PROJECT

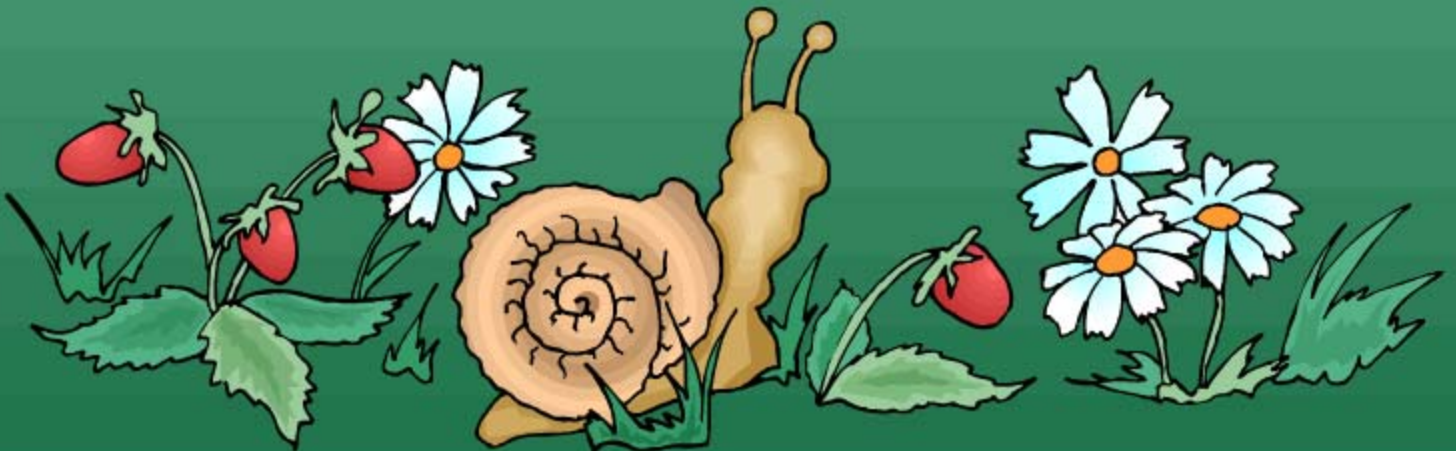
For this class project you will plant seeds, do research on your plant and watch it grow in our class garden. You will use your research to make an educational sign for others to learn about your plant, so please do your best work!

Name of the plant: _____

What are the planting instructions on the back of the seed packet? Copy them here.

Is the plant edible or decorative?

What do you know about the plant already?



Your Research Questions

Before you begin looking for information about your plant, it's important for you to think of some questions you want to find the answers to. There are some different ways you can do this. You might start by filling in some questions like these:

- What are some possible solutions for the problem of _____?
- Why is _____ important?
- What would happen if _____?
- How is _____ grown and cared for organically?
- How is _____ used in our culture and in other cultures?
- Where is _____ originally from?

Think about questions that people really need the answers to.

You might look at the way that your plant is raised and how that affects the workers who tend it, the community around it, or the land on which it is grown. Or you might look at what kinds of questions a chef, doctor, or pharmaceutical scientist might ask about their plant.

Once you have decided what you want to find out about this plant, write three research questions below:

1.

2.

3.



Research Findings

Now it's time to start your research. I have provided a number of books you can use to help you find information on your plant. You can also use the Internet to get answers to your questions. Websites for you to visit include:

- OrganicGardening.com
(<http://www.organicgardening.com/>)
Type the name of your plant in the “search” option for links and information.
- National Gardening Association
(<http://www.garden.org/home>)
Type the name of your plant in the “search” option for links and information.
- National Agricultural Library: Kids' Science Page
(<http://www.nal.usda.gov/kids/agric.htm>)
This site has links to many other gardening sites.
- Urban Programs Resources Network
(<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/index.html>)
Select *Hort Corner* for specific plant information or *Just for Kids* to learn about growing plants and plant parts in general.
- GardenAdvice
(<http://www.gardenadvice.co.uk/club/young/index.html>)
This site has advice on organic gardening. Click on the “search” link and type in name of plant, or look at the various links for general ideas.



Research Findings (continued)

Find at least three sources of information about your plant. Write your sources here. You also want to list the answers to your research questions. Continue on the back if you run out of room.

Source 1

Name of book or website (and URL): _____

Author's Name: _____ Year published: _____

Interesting information and answers to your research questions:

Source 2

Name of book or website (and URL): _____

Author's Name: _____ Year published: _____

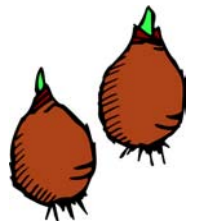
Interesting information and answers to your research questions:

Source 3

Name of book or website (and URL): _____

Author's Name: _____ Year published: _____

Interesting information and answers to your research questions



Research Findings (continued)

Answer **at least three** of the four questions that follow. Use the back of the page if you need to:

1. List the scientific and common names for your plant.
2. Where is your plant from originally? Use a blank sheet of paper to draw a map of the country, coloring in the region the plant comes from.
3. How is this plant used? You can include recipes, cultures that use it, and their traditions. If you find pictures in books or on websites, you can print them out or copy them and include them with this handout.
4. List some other interesting facts about this plant.



Observation Log

Document your observations of how the plant is growing here. Continue on the back or on another paper.

Note: If your seeds do not grow, try and try again! Read the planting instructions and try planting the seeds in different places and with different soil. You might also need to get new seeds. When seeds are a few years old, they no longer germinate.

Day 1 **Date:** _____

Describe how and where you planted your seed. Add an illustration of the seed.

Day ____ (5–7) **Date:** _____

Describe and illustrate your plant's progress:

Day ____ (9–11) **Date:** _____

Describe and illustrate your plant's progress:

Day ____ (13–15) **Date:** _____

Describe and illustrate your plant's progress:

Day ____ (17–19) **Date:** _____

Describe and illustrate your plant's progress:



Your Sign

Now that you have researched your plant, planted your seeds, and hopefully observed them grow, you are ready to make a sign about your plant. This sign will help others learn about your plant and maybe become interested in organic gardening too!

1. Look through the information you gathered from your research and underline three or four of the most interesting facts you learned about your plant. Put a circle around any pictures you made that would look good on your sign.
2. Make a rough draft of your sign with writing that is easy for others to read. Add pictures (you can use pictures you collected during your research or draw them yourself) and draw a creative frame around the edge.
3. Have me review your draft once you've finished it.
4. Once I have approved your sign, do a very careful, neat final draft and sign your name on it.
5. Give the sign back to me to have it laminated. Use it for your oral presentation, and then display it next to your plant in the class garden.

