

Illinois Ag in the Classroom Bio-degradable Planter

Objective: Your students will be working together to learn about bio-degradable planters. They will also learn how to transplant plants from a small container into the soil.

Common Core: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.10; RL.2.10; W.2.1; W.2.2; W.2.7

CCSS.Math.Content.2.MD.A.1

Next Generation Science Standards: Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy and Dynamics: 2-LS2-1 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity: 2-LS4-1

Suggested Reading Materials: Lily's Garden by Deborah Kogan Ray ISBN-10: 0761326537 The Beautiful Christmas Tree by Charlotte Zolotow ISBN-13: 978-0618152452 The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle ISBN-13: 978-0887081552 Michael Recycle by Ellie Bethel ISBN-13: 978-1600102240

Materials Needed: • Newspaper • Tin Cans • Compost • Seeds

Directions:

1. Take a sheet of newspaper and fold it along its length almost in half, leaving a portion at the top showing.
2. Fold this top portion over the previously folded section to create a thicker top.
3. Take a tin can and place it so that the edge of the can is level with the top edge of the paper. Roll the can along, rolling the paper along with it so as to create a paper tube.
4. Place the can with paper around it top end down. Fold the extra newspaper inwards, flat on the bottom of the can (this creates the base of the pot).
5. Remove the can from inside the newspaper pot.
6. Fill with compost and plant seeds. Record progress in a journal book.
7. When plants have grown large enough to plant outside, you can plant the entire pot in the ground. The newspaper will degrade into the soil.

Lesson Extender:

You can also turn empty tissue rolls into little boxes that are just the right size for starting plants!

1. Collapse the empty tissue roll by setting it on its side and pressing it flat so that it forms a rectangle.
2. Placing it so that one of the long sides is closest to you, cut a vertical line down the middle of the roll. Be sure to cut through both layers of the cardboard.
3. Select one half of the roll and pop it back to its original shape. It will look more square than round. Make 4 cuts along one of the open ends. Cuts should be approximately 1/2" deep and equidistant apart. These are your flaps.
4. Crease each of the flaps by folding inward.
5. Now fold the flaps closed as you would the flaps on a box.
6. Set your seed starter pot upright so that it rests on the folded flaps. Place on a tray or plate to keep from leaking.
7. Fill with potting soil, seeds, and water. These can also be planted in the ground once the plant is large enough.

