

Is It a Fruit or a Vegetable?

A Pre-Visit Lesson to *Flowers: More than a Pretty Face*

Objectives: To classify common plants as a fruit or as a vegetable.

Curricular Area: Science

Skills: Observation
Communication
Cooperation
Classification

Time: One class period

Background Information:

- Fruits – the edible reproductive body of a seed plant
- List of Common Fruits - plum, cherry, apricot, mango, peach, strawberry, blackberry, grape, apple, pear, lemon, lime, orange, grapefruit, banana, kiwi, watermelon, cantaloupe, avocado, pepper, cucumber, eggplant, olive, pumpkin, tomato, etc.
- Vegetables - the edible part of a plant (roots, stems, leaves, etc.)
- List of Common Vegetables - broccoli, Brussels sprout, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, spinach, asparagus, celery, onion, carrot, potato, radish, turnip, yam, etc.

Materials: Various kinds of fruits and vegetables to place on each group's table
Construction Paper
Markers

Procedure:

1. Divide students into groups, and place various fruits and vegetables on their table.
2. Allow time for students to observe the items on their table. Instruct them to group the items in any way they would like.
3. Have each group discuss how they divided their items and explain what characteristics they used to group their items.
4. Now, instruct the students to group their items into two categories: fruits or vegetables.
5. Pass out construction paper and markers to each group.
6. Instruct the students to list what items they claim to be fruits and what items they claim to be vegetables. After their list is written, instruct students to create and write down their own definitions of what a fruit is and what a vegetable is.
7. Allow time for groups to share their own invented lists and definitions.
8. Discuss what all groups agree with and discuss what the groups disagree with.
9. Give the formal definitions of a fruit and a vegetable.
10. Based on this new knowledge, allow students time to make any final adjustments with their grouped items.
11. Finally, go through each item and tell the class whether it is a fruit or a vegetable.

Extension:

- Ask students to research a fruit or vegetable and learn about its place of origin, native habitat, and various uses. Have them use their findings to write a first person story from the perspective of their item.