

Cross Curriculum Ideas

From a project with Windy Mack at the National Teacher Training Institute

Literature: Read stories about sunflowers. Recommended books for k-4:

- From Seed to Sunflower by Gerald Legg, Carolyn Scarace
- Sam Plants a Sunflower by Kate Petty, Axel Scheffler
- Sunflowers by Rebecca W. Atwater Briccetti
- Sunflower House by Eve Bunting
- Sunflower by Miela Ford
- The Sunflower Went Flop by Joy Cowley

Writing:

Write stories/poems about sunflowers (e.g., If I were a sunflower). Students should keep a sunflower journal to write down notes about the growth and progress of the sunflowers they planted.

Math:

Count sunflower seeds. Estimate how many sunflower seeds are in a bag. Predict how many seeds it takes to fill a bag. Measure and weigh sunflower seeds. Predict how long it will take for the seeds to sprout that were planted. Measure and record each week the height of the sunflowers that the students planted. Count how many petals are on each sunflower. Make sunflower seed patterns, shapes, and/or numbers.

Social Studies:

Research how sunflower seeds get from sunflower farms to our homes. Research different ways sunflowers seeds are used. Research where sunflowers are grown. Research whom the first people were that discovered and used sunflower seeds. This research can be done as a class, at home with a parent or adult, or in the media center as a group with the assistance of the media specialist.

Health:

Research the benefits people get from sunflower seeds. Are they healthy or unhealthy? How much fat or minerals do sunflower seeds contain? Research can be done as a class, at home with a parent or adult, or in the media center as a group with the assistance of the media specialist or physical education teacher.

Music & Art:

- Use the [pollination song](#) to teach about Pollination
- Introduce students to Vincent Van Gogh by exploring the Vincent Van Gogh Information Gallery. See the art exercise below.
- Look at sunflower paintings by Van Gogh. Have students make their own sunflower paintings. Create a sunflower seed collage.
- [Here are three 45 minute art lessons](#) using sunflowers for K-4.

Technology:

Explore [Bluemountain.com](#) to create sunflower greeting cards and e-mail them to friends/family.