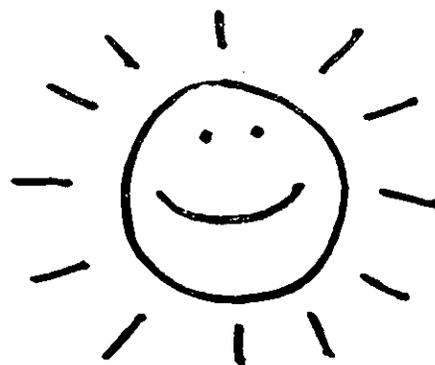


The Sun

Grades K-1



Overview

The students will discuss the sun's energy. Using old magazines, the students will look for pictures of things that get their energy from the sun. They will plant seeds and observe how the sun gives the seeds energy to grow into a plant.

Objectives

- To help students identify the sun as a source of energy.
- To help students understand that energy makes things grow.
- To help students identify things that get their energy from the sun.

Materials

For the presenter:

- a large piece of white butcher paper 6' x 4'
- colored marking pens
- a plant
- a couple of bean seeds
- a fish or some small animal (optional)
- pictures of people, animals, etc. (anything that needs the sun to grow)
- glue
- black marking pen
- water
- measuring cup for watering plants

For each student:

- old magazine
- scissors
- One - 1/2 pint milk carton with the top cut off or 8 oz. plastic glass
- potting soil
- bean seeds



Getting Ready

Activity 1

Draw a large colorful sun in the middle of the butcher paper and hang it up in front of the room. The students will glue their energy pictures on it. Put the fish, plant, and pictures, etc. on a table by the butcher paper.

Activity 2

Cover a table with old newspaper for planting. Cut the tops off the milk cartons. Put the cartons, soil, water, cup for watering, bean seeds and black marking pen on the table.

Procedures

Activity 1: The Sun's Energy

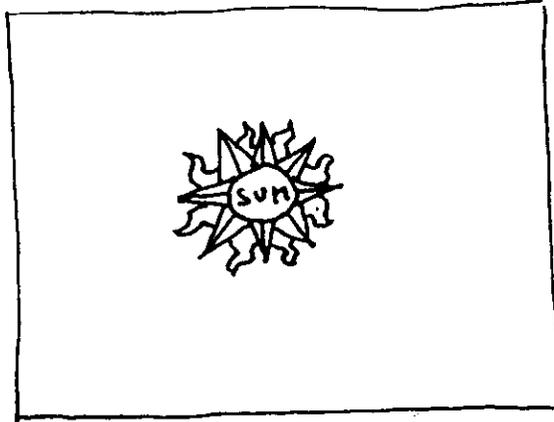
Use the questions below to spark the students' interest and get them thinking about the sun as a source of energy. Refer to the sun on your large paper to start the discussion. Share the pictures and objects with the students as you discuss the sun's energy with them.

Questions

“What do you know about the sun? Why is it important to all living things? Do you know what energy means?” Write *energy* on the chalkboard for future reference. “Can you think of something that gets its energy from the sun? How do you use the sun's energy?” Hold up the green plant. “Where does this plant get its energy? What would happen if we put it in the closet in the dark?” Hold up the seeds. “What do these seeds need to grow? What would happen if they were put in the closet where it is dark? Do you think a plant could live with only soil and water?” Ask a volunteer to walk across the room. “Where does your friend get his/her energy? Could he/she live without the sun? Why not?” Follow the same procedure with the other things and pictures that you brought.

Tell the students that they will each receive a magazine. You would like them to cut out pictures of things that get their energy from the sun. Explain that they will also have a chance to go to the planting table. They will plant seeds and observe what happens when their seeds are put in the sunshine.

When the students finish cutting, have them share their picture with you and glue them on the poster.

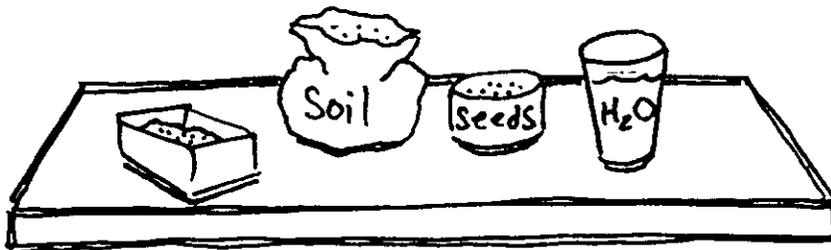


Activity 2 Planting (Have the planting table set up in another area.)

While the students are cutting out pictures, have groups of four students do the planting. It would work best if another adult or older student was able to supervise the planting at the same time the cutting activity is going on.

Student directions for planting:

1. Write your name on the side of a milk carton with a black marker.
2. Fill carton half full of soil.
3. Place 3 bean seeds on soil and cover with about 1 inch of soil.
4. Water your plant.
5. Put your plant on the counter in the sun.



Closure

Have the class look at the sun chart in front of the class. Ask them all to point to one thing on the poster that gets its energy from the sun. Have them share with their neighbor why it needs energy. Ask a couple of students to share their ideas with the whole class. Remind the students to watch their seeds each day to see what happens when the sun gives them energy.

Clean Up

Each child is responsible to make sure all scraps are picked up at his/her desk.