Lesson 4a: Diary of a Plant

Concept: Students will record observations of plant life in a journal.

Objective: After participating in this lesson, students will be able to:

- Analyze and observe the world around them
- Communicate and describe the life of a plant
- Describe how worms are companions to plants

Lesson:

1. Display the book *Diary of a Worm* (not included in these materials). Invite the students to share their observations of the illustrations on the front and back cover of the book. Have the students determine what the worm is writing in. Ask questions concerning whether the story is fact or fiction and reasons why. Explain that the worm is writing in a diary and that a diary is used to record personal experiences and observations.

2. Read the book *Diary of a Worm* to the students. Ask the students to recall some of the experiences that the worm recorded in its diary. Discuss with students where worms live and why worms are important companions to plants. (Their waste provides nutrients to the soil that helps the plants to grow).

3. Explain to the class that they will use diaries just like the worm in the story to help them record their observations of the school garden. Provide each student with a notebook or have them make their own journals. The students can use various garden related materials to decorate their journals and title their journals *Diary of a Plant*. Refer back to the book *Diary of a Worm* to show the students what to include in their journals (title, name, date) and the many different ways that observations can be recorded (writing, photos, drawings, paintings, etc). The students will write as if they were the plant. Visit the school garden often so that the students can have the opportunity to investigate the growth and life cycle of the plants, as well as, the opportunity to record changes over a period of time. Throughout the growth period of the plants have the students share their observations to demonstrate how unique and different each student’s perspective and experiences can be from one another.

GPS: Science Focus
Grade 1: S1CS1, S1CS4, S1CS5, S1L1
Grade 2: S2CS1, S2CS4, S2CS5, S2E3, S2L1

Materials Needed:
- *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin
- Notebook or materials to create a handmade diary
- Writing & Drawing utensils

Time: 30 min per visit

Vocabulary:
- diary
- worm
- plant
- observation
- record