K-2 / Writing: Narrative and Informational Pieces about Spinach

Overview:
This lesson will challenge students to describe spinach and its qualities and uses in many different ways. They'll start with a brainstorming activity considering what spinach may look like from the perspective of a chef, historian, doctor, scientist, artist, and animal. After that, students will be guided in dictating, drawing, or writing both a narrative story about spinach (using characters, setting, and plot), along with an informational piece about spinach (identifying a main idea and including details).
(Time Needed: 35 minutes)

Common Core Standards:
- Text Types and Purposes
  - Kindergarten
    - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2 - Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.
    - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.3 - Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.
  - 1st Grade
    - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2 - Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
    - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.3 - Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.
  - 2nd Grade
    - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2 - Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

For more information, visit www.georgiaorganics.org/for-schools
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3 - Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

Objectives:
- Students will write an informative text that introduces the topic of spinach, provides details, and a concluding statement.
- Students will write a narrative about spinach that recounts a short sequence of events and provides a sense of closure.

Materials:
- Hats or props to represent different types of people (chef, historian, doctor, scientist, Georgian)
- Spinach plant, spinach leaves, or photos of spinach
- Narrative Writing Mind Map Poster
- Informational Writing Mind Map Poster

Outline:
- Engage: Spinach observation with 5 senses (optional taste test)
- Explore: Seeing spinach’s attributes and uses from many perspectives
- Explain: Reviewing elements of narrative and informational texts
- Extend: Drawing, dictating, or writing narrative and informational texts about spinach

Lesson Plan:
- Engage (whole group / at the garden or on the carpet) - 5 minutes
  o Observe a spinach plant together either in the garden or in the classroom. Ask students to describe the spinach plant. Encourage students to think creatively, remind them to use all of their senses.
  o Optional: Raw Taste Test
- Explore (small groups / at seats) - 10 minutes
  o Teacher asks students to think creatively about how spinach’s qualities and uses may be viewed in different ways by different people.
  o Teacher distributes various hats or props (1 to each small group) to represent different types of people and models one thought they may ask before asking students to develop their own in their small groups.
Examples may include:
  - Chef:
    - What does this taste like?
    - What would happen if I cooked it?
    - What other foods would it taste good with?
  - Historian:
    - How long has this plant been growing on the planet?
    - How long have people been eating it?
  - Doctor:
    - What vitamins and minerals does this plant contain?
    - How does this plant help human bodies?

For more information, visit www.georgiaorganics.org/for-schools
- Scientist:
  - How does this plant grow?
  - What plant family does it belong to?
- Artist:
  - What color would I use to paint it?
  - What shape are the different parts of the plant?
- Animal:
  - Will this taste good?
  - Is it poisonous? Will it hurt me to eat it?
- Plant:
  - Will this plant help me grow?
  - Will it drink all of my water?
  - Will I grow taller and get to the sunlight first?

- Explain / Extend (independent or in small groups / at seats) - 20 minutes
  - Introduce that there are many ways to write about spinach if we just think creatively.
  - Explain narrative writing using a mind map to identify the elements:
    - Setting
    - Characters
    - Plot (beginning, middle, end)
  - Extend to students creating their own narratives about spinach (in small groups or independently) by drawing, dictating, or writing.
  - Explain informational writing using a mind map to identify the main idea and details
  - Extend to students creating their own informational texts about spinach (in small groups or independently) by drawing, dictating, or writing.

- Evaluate:
  - **Example Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informative Writing</th>
<th>Primer Level</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2</td>
<td>The student used a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose and informative text in which they named a topic and supplied some facts about the topic</td>
<td>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2</td>
<td>The student wrote an informative text in which they named a topic and supplied some facts about the topic and provided some sense of closure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2</td>
<td>The student wrote an informative text in which they introduced a topic and used facts and definitions to develop points and provided a concluding statement or section</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Narrative Writing</th>
<th>Primer Level</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.3</td>
<td>The student used a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events and tell about the events in the order in which they occurred and provide a reaction to what happened</td>
<td>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.3</td>
<td>The student wrote a narrative in which they recounted two or more appropriately sequenced events and included some details regarding what happened and used temporal words to signal event order and provided some sense of closure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3</td>
<td>The student wrote a narrative in which they recounted a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events and included details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings and used temporal words to signal event order and provided a sense of closure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>