

## First Peas to the Table

**Grade Level:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**School(s):** All Charlottesville elementary schools

**Objectives:** Students will:

- Understand role of observation, data collection, and note-taking in experimentation
- Use their senses to observe, measure, and track the growth of their pea plants and pods.
- Collect and organize date, time, temperature, and plant growth data.
- Learn to observe and connect plants and environment, learn the basic needs of a pea plant, learn to care for and be mindful in the garden.

### STANDARDS OF LEARNING:

- Math 2.6, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.15
- English 2.1
- Science 2.1, 2.4, 2.6

**Description:** The “First Peas to the Table” lesson is a cross-district, cross-curricular 2<sup>nd</sup> grade project. The lesson invites CCS 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to compete with the other elementary schools to plant peas and be the first to harvest. For the lesson, students read the book *First Peas to the Table* by Susan Grigsby and learn to grow, care for, and harvest pea plants. Over nine weeks, students will visit the garden three times, once to plant and at least twice to observe the pea plants’ growth by taking measurements and keeping records. Once the peas are grown, the school to harvest the largest pea pod during the third week of May is declared the winner.

### Materials:

- *First Peas to the Table* by Susan Grigsby. There is one copy in each school library.
- Sugar Snap Pea seeds
- Plant labels and markers
- Student Journal
- Rulers
- Outdoor thermometer
- Clock

### Action:

*Pre-Lesson – February*

1. CSG Garden Coordinators connect with second grade teachers at each elementary school to decide on planting strategy, to coordinate the exact date and time for planting, and to provide teachers with necessary materials.

*Day 1 – Early March – First Peas to the Table Read Aloud and Pea Planting*

2. Teachers will read *First Peas to the Table* with students.

During the read aloud teachers will pause to ask questions and add comments, including:

- Page 3
  - Who is Thomas Jefferson sitting with at his table?
  - Based on what you know about agriculture in the United States, who do you think was growing the peas for their competition?

- Explain: After we finish reading our book, we are going to plant peas, just like Thomas Jefferson had the people enslaved on his plantation do up at Monticello, and we are going to collect data about their growth over the next few weeks, just like Jefferson did each day.
  - Page 7
    - What do you think the students will learn from taking notes about what they plant?
    - Point to and name for students each flowering plant life cycle stage depicted on this page.
  - Page 16
    - Learning from Shakayla, what might we do as we work in the garden if we see something we don't understand or know the word for?
  - Page 18
    - What is a trellis? Can you name the different materials that Shakayla uses for a trellis? What might be some other ways we could build our trellis?
  - Page 23
    - What do you observe about Maya's note taking that we might want to mimic for our note taking?
3. CSG Garden Coordinators will ready garden beds for planting.
  4. Students will visit the garden to plant their pea seeds with the help of the CSG Garden Coordinator. Prior to planting, students will review the basic needs of plants and how pea plants specifically meet their needs. After planting, students will record their initial data in their Student Journal.

*Days 2 & 3 – April-May – Measuring*

5. Students will visit the garden at least twice to observe, measure, and draw the growth and change of the pea plants in their Student Journal.
6. As the first peas flower and produce pods, CSG Garden Coordinators will select the official "measuring week" when students will go outside to measure the length, width, and weight of the pea they think is the largest.
7. Back in the classroom, students will add the lengths and widths of the three largest peas together to get a measurement total (ex: measurement total: 3 widths + 3 lengths =  $1\frac{1}{8}'' + \frac{6}{8}'' + \frac{5}{8}'' + 3\frac{6}{8}'' + 3'' + 2\frac{5}{8}'' = 10\frac{7}{8}''$ )
8. The Garden Coordinator will email the CSG Program Coordinator with their students' measurement total and will wait to hear the winner announced on Friday.
9. CSG will compare the measurement totals of the peas at each school to declare the "first peas to the table".
10. The school with the "first peas to the table" will receive recognition from CSG and the school district.

**Good to know:**

- Students may start pea seeds in the classroom in containers or peat pots and transplant the seedlings into the garden in mid- to late-March.
- Many gardeners suggest soaking pea seeds in water overnight to improve germination. Others coat seeds in an inoculant to improve germination and growth.
- Sugar snap peas are a cool weather crop and grow best in the early to late spring.
- Sugar snap peas should be trellised and can grow up to eight feet tall.
- On average, sugar snap peas mature in nine weeks.
- Students may eat the entire pea pod of a sugar snap pea raw.