**Observation in the Garden: Plant timeline Grades 3-5**

**Description:**

Take your students to the garden to explore the stages of plant growth through time. They will be drawing the stages of plant grown from bud, to flower, to fruit and seeds.

**Preparation**

Before going outside, describe the garden rules to the learners. Explain that the garden is another kind of classroom. Engage them in a discussion about what rules would be best to promote respect of the living plants and animals in the garden as well as each other. Consider using garden based activities as a reward for good classroom behavior. Garden based activities are popular with parents and volunteers. Ask them for help so that they can facilitate groups of learners, especially with the instructions. For more techniques about managing learners in an outdoor setting, refer to: http://www.lifelab.org/wp-content/uploads/2003/04/OurdoorClassroomManagement2.pdf.

Look for plants in the garden that have buds, flowers, fruits and fallen fruits or seeds. Possibilities include tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, and radishes that have gone to seed. Students can work in pairs or independently.

Make sure each person has a pencil and a piece of blank paper or the worksheet on the following page.

**Purpose**

Explore the stages of a fruiting plant from bud to seed.

**Discussion**

Ask the students to fill in the sentence about their objects “I notice …” “I wonder….” and “That reminds me of ….” What are the best media to use to communicate the timeline? What would be the best way to show the plant’s growth through time?

For more journal exercises, visit John Muir Law and Emily Lygren Field Journaling Curriculum

<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/curriculum/>

Colorado Academic Standards: VA09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1 , VA09-GR.4-S.3-GLE.1, VA09-GR.5-S.3-GLE.1

**Plant Time Line**

Bud from your plant Petals Opening Open Flower

Fruit forming with petals Plant with fruit Rotten fruit or open fruit