

February: Seed Catalogue Valentines

Materials

Seed catalogues, plastic sheet (and extra large black hefty outdoor trash bag or a clear drop cloth from the hardware store are both great options), construction paper, scissors, glue, crayons

Preparation

Get seed catalogues, write a few adorable garden Valentine puns (“Would it be corny if I asked you to be my Valentine?”)

Activity - 40-45 minutes

Intro - 5 minutes

It is time to start thinking about the garden again! Today, we’re going to be heading out to the garden to see what it looks like. Try to pay close attention to what is going on out there. See if you can spot any early signs of spring!

Out in the garden - 10 minutes

Go out to the garden and clear your bed of snow. Use tools if they’re available or just mittened hands. Spend some time making observations that could mean that spring is right around the corner. Are there any birds singing? Are there any green sprigs on the trees or around the garden?

Valentines - 25 minutes

Tell the students that because you love the garden so much, the class is going to be making garden themed valentines! Explain that you are going to use the seed catalogues to come up with a few Valentines Day puns (which are a kind of joke). Give a few examples to your students. Puns are a very complex language concept! If your students are able to grasp the concept, encourage them to try to come up with a few of their own. If not, write a few puns on the board and have students copy them down. Talk through the vegetable with them and then challenge them to find the vegetable in the seed catalogue. For example: Have students copy down “Being your Valentine couldn’t be BEET” and then ask them to find a picture of a beet in the catalogue! Whether students are learning to write their own puns or are working to identify different vegetables, they usually get the general silliness of the activity.