Back Yard Farming Syllabus

Course Objective

Through provided hands on learning, inquiry, observation and experimentation, students will gain an understanding of the basics of organic backyard gardening and an appreciation for being a good steward of the Earth. They will learn about composting, proper soil composition for growing a variety of herbs, vegetables and flowers, the life cycle of a plant, what insects are helpful in the care of plants, and become knowledgeable in how to plant and tend a garden with sustainable practices. We will create a project each week based upon what we are discussing.

\*Please note that I may change around the classes due to Mother Nature and interests of our students:)

Week 1: Meet and Greet

Students will design the covers of their Garden Scrapbook and be given list of recyclable materials we will use throughout our class that they could collect at home.

Week 2: Reduce Reuse, Recycle and Composting:

Students will construct their own landfill using milk cartons to learn about what waste products decompose and which ones do not. Students will hypothesize what will happen at the end of 5 weeks in their Landfill. During Week 6, class, we will remove the contents of their mini-landfill and investigate the waste items.

Hypothesis on what decomposes in Scrapbook Entry

Week 3: Lasagna Garden

We will Prep our garden beds with different soils and composts. In one raise bed, we will construct a “Lasagna garden”…layering mulch, newspapers, kitchen scraps, compost and other organic matter. And learn the magic of horse manure!!

Lasagna Compost for Scrapbook Entry

Week 4: Starting Seeds, Growing Guides and Zones

lettuce, herbs, garlic, onions, broccoli, tomato,…we will plant in recyclable containers

What can you make to eat with what we are planting?

Gardening Calendar Wheel (construct a wheel on telling when to plant and harvest)

Map of Gardening Zones for Scrapbook Entry

Week 5

Self Expression in the Garden

Students will paint rocks and make markers for plants and we will discuss garden designs

In addition we will make some upcycled flower planters and wild seed balls.

Garden Design and seed ball recipe

page for Scrapbook Entry

Week 6:

Composting Revisited with Worms!!: We will dig back into a mini landfills and see what decomposed and what did not.

Then we will build our own worm composting farm.

Composting Page for Scrapbook Entry

Week 7

We will learn what insects (and worms) help in the garden. We will construct insect homes.

Make observations of our worm composter farm.

We will create a diagram of Insect Home for Scrapbook Entry

Week: 8

We will make our final observations of our gardening projects and do a final check on our lasagna garden…perhaps even do some planting in the raised beds! And release our composting worms.

We will have our final sharing of our garden scrapbook.