

Life Lab Garden Classroom Elements

www.lifelab.org

Human Sundial

Directions to lay out your own sundial can be found at:
www.needham.k12.ma.us/sciencecenter/sundial.htm

Circle Bench – A Place to Gather

Make your own circle bench with straw bales or tree stumps. An outdoor gathering area is a great addition to any educational garden. We've included many areas for groups to gather in our garden.

Outdoor teaching tip: Face the sun when teaching outdoors so that your students have their backs to the sun.

Observational Bee Hive

Learn more about keeping bees at www.beemaster.com

Theme Beds

In our main garden area we have the following theme beds. Most of the plants in our central garden are perennial plantings. Perennials serve as the foundation for our garden and provide habitat, pollen and beauty.

Tea Bed

Dried Flower Bed

Pollinator Beds

Plant Adaptations Bed (tropical, succulent, and carnivorous)

Birds, Bees, Bats, Butterflies and Beyond

Zoo Bed

Apple Room

Other theme beds you can make:

Soup Bed

Pizza Bed

Salsa Bed

Salad Bed

Stir Fry Bed

History Bed

Literature Bed (grow plants you read about)

Native Plants

Make your own zoo bed. This book will help:

The Zoo Garden: Forty Animal-Named Plants Families Can Grow Together

by Chris Hastings

Weather Station

What would you put in your weather station? Thermometer, barometer, anemometer, wind sock, weather vane, hydrometer?

Have your class join the GLOBE weather program www.globe.gov

Pond

Papyrus is one plant that was once used for paper-making. It likes growing in moist places.

Flower Tunnel

Enter the Tunnel (covered in Passion Vine and the orange-flowered Thunbergia plants)
Other fast growing vines: gourds (annual, good in hot climates), potato vine, star jasmine, trumpet vine (it's on our fence behind the pond), morning glory (annuals and perennials).

Solar Bird Bath

Turn or cover the solar panel to stop the flow.

www.solarschoolhouse.org

www.need.org National Energy Education Development

www.realgoods.com A place to buy solar items.

Carnivorous Bog

Venus Fly Traps are native to North Carolina!

www.carnivorousplantnursery.com/sales/teaching.htm

www.blackjungle.com/carnivorousplants.html

Wheel Chair Bed

This bed is a demonstration of how gardening can be accessible to everyone.

Make a bed like ours or buy an accessible bed at www.kidsgardening.com's store. Learn much more by Googling "accessible gardening."

Root View Box

There are plans to make root view boxes, big and small, in the back of the Growing Classroom Activity Guide, available today or at www.lifelab.org. If you make a root view box, make sure no light can shine on the roots.

Chard and Nigella ("Love in a Mist") are great plants to include because they have colored roots!

Pizza Bed

Kids love the Pizza Garden.

Plant these ingredients: tomatoes, basil, garlic, onions, oregano, peppers, artichokes, oat grass for the cow (cheese) and pig (Canadian bacon, ham, sausage, pepperoni), and wheat around the edge for the crust.

Garden Kitchen

Some of our favorite cooking activities with kids are making corn tortillas and hand-shaken butter, grinding whole wheat and making mini pizzas or jumbo pretzels, garden herb omelettes, pickled summer squash, humus, and solar baked treats.

Buy a Sun Oven online (~\$250) or make your own www.solarcookers.org or check out the Growing Classroom lesson “A Shoebox of Sunshine” page 305. Amazon.com sells solar cooking books as well.

Cob Oven

Wood fired baking is a good 1/2-day event for special occasions and bread/pizza/pretzel baking during our day camps.

You don't have to make an oven to play with cob. It's just mud.

We built our cob oven (free form adobe) with our farm soil. Learn how with this book *Build Your Own Earth Oven* by Kiko Denzer

Reuse It!

Look under your feet. Gardens are a great place for reusing. Notice the bamboo hanging racks, the compost bin made of wooden pallet, the bike rim trellis and the torn up Mission Blvd. sidewalks that made our raised beds in the central garden.

Tool Shed

A rodent proof place for seeds, tools, and lessons. A window or sunroof in your shed will help you find what you need.

The Rot Zone (Composting Area)

Rot Zone sign designs are available for purchase at www.lifelabstore.org.

Learn more about composting/recycling in the garden at

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools/Gardens/default.htm or in the *Growing Classroom's* appendix or “Lets Make a Compost Cake” lesson on page 202.

Learn about Life Lab's Waste Free Schools Program at www.lifelab.org/wfs.html

Worms

Learn how to worm compost in the Gardening How To appendix of the *Growing Classroom*.

Chickens!

Learn more at www.backyardchickens.com

Sink

Great for garden clean up and rinsing vegetables. Our multi-value sink is great for groups of kids.

Tree o' Tunes

Fun recycled instruments do more than make sound. They also deter kids from climbing this brittle-branched tree. We have plenty of other good trees to climb.