

Opposites Attract

FOURTH GRADE

The first time students enter the garden is the best time to set expectations and also take some time to explore. Students will be involved in the rule-making process, then go on a scavenger hunt to locate items with opposing characteristics.

SUBJECT

EXPLORE

TIME

30 - 45 MIN

MATERIALS

8 egg cartons with opposite adjectives written on the bottom

Examples:

Heavy - Light

Thin - Thick

Soft - Hard

Living - Not Living

Big - Small

Dark - Light

Bumpy - Smooth

Colorful - Bland

Alike - Different

Artificial - Natural

Shiny - Dull



DIRECTIONS

- If your school garden does not have an outdoor classroom with a whiteboard, begin the lesson inside the classroom to make the garden rules.
- By fourth grade, many students are already familiar with the school garden and garden rules. Ask students to draw on their past experiences to remind everyone of the garden rules and record them on the whiteboard. Basic garden rules may include: be respectful to others and your surroundings, only pick flowers, plants, or vegetables with permission from an adult, handle plants and animals gently, only touch animals when an adult says it's okay (never touch spiders or bees), use tools safely, and walk at all times.
- Head out to the garden and gather in the outdoor classroom area. Explain that for their first activity in the garden, they will explore the garden in groups and each group will be assigned a pair of opposite adjectives. For example, one group might have the words "soft" and "hard." That group will need to find six items that are soft and six items that are hard and place them in the two rows of the egg carton (all the hard items in one row and all the soft items in the other row). Alternatively, task groups to think of their own adjectives and provide masking tape and markers so they can mark their cartons. See examples on the following page.
- When all of the groups have located six of each opposite adjective, return to the outdoor classroom and allow students to inspect each group's collection of objects and see if they can guess the words that the groups were assigned. They should do this part silently and then go one by one to announce their guesses after every student has observed each group's objects.

EXTENSION

- Make a sign with the garden rules.

SOURCE

Adapted from:

- California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom
[Six of One, Half Dozen of the Other](#)



Opposites Attract Examples

