

TOMATO LESSON #1

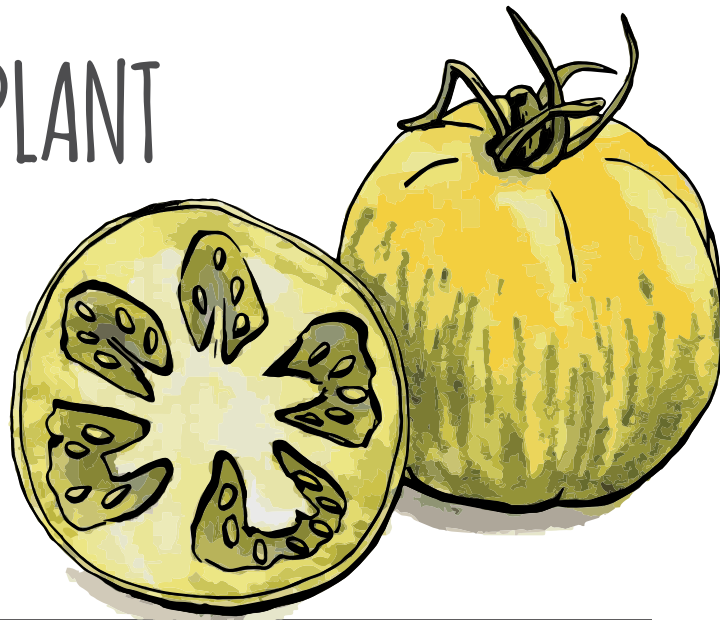
LIFE CYCLE OF THE TOMATO PLANT

Ask: What different stages do humans go through in life? (baby/infant, toddler, teen, etc.)

Say: The stages of development for anything living is called a life cycle.

Ask: What stages do you think are included in the life cycle of a tomato?

Watch: youtu.be/DKk6IgemIW8



ACTIVITY: MAPPING THE DRIVE

Say: Today, we are going to talk about the different developmental stages of a tomato plant, and then we will taste some tomatoes.

Directions: Have students sit in small groups.

Ask: What is the first stage of a tomato plant?

Say: The first stage of the life cycle of a tomato is a seed.

Directions: Pass out tomato seeds to each group for them to inspect.

Ask: What do you notice about tomato seeds? What do you wonder about tomato seeds?

Ask: What do tomato seeds need to move from this stage to the next in their life cycle?

Say: Tomatoes need nutrients (soil), water, and sunlight.

Directions: Allow students to observe the tomato plants without flowers and the tomato plants with flowers. Note: If you don't have any actual tomato plants available, you can just share a picture of a tomato plant without flowers and one with flowers.

Ask: Which plant comes first in the life cycle of a tomato? Why do you think that?

Say: The plant without flowers comes first in the life cycle of a tomato plant. The plant grows from a seed to a small plant without flowers, and then finally develops flowers which will turn into tomatoes when pollinated.

Directions: Allow students to observe the unripe (green) tomatoes and the ripe (red) tomatoes.

Ask: Stand up if you think the green tomato is the ripe tomato. Stand up if you think the red tomato is the ripe tomato.

Say: The red tomato is the ripe tomato. A tomato is ripe when it has a slight give when lightly squeezed and a fragrant aroma. Note: Some tomato varieties, like the tomatillo, are green when ripe.

Directions: Allow students to come up and feel the difference between the unripe green tomato and the red tomato.

Say: So far, we have learned that the life cycle of a tomato has the following stages: seed, plant without flowers, plant with flowers, unripe tomato, ripe tomato.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Tomato seeds
- Tomato plant without flowers
- Tomato plant with flowers
- Unripe (green) tomato
- Ripe (red) tomato
- Paper plates
- Plastic knife
- Toothpicks

Directions: Cut open the ripe tomato and give each group a piece of the cut tomato on a paper plate. Pass out toothpicks to the students. Have students taste test the different tomato varieties and identify any differences in taste between them.

Ask: What do you see inside the tomato?

Ask: What are the stages in the life cycle of a tomato?

Say: The life cycle of a tomato has the following stages: seed, plant without flowers, plant with flowers, unripe tomato, ripe tomato.

Ask: How can you tell if a tomato is ripe?

Say: A tomato is ripe when it has a slight give when lightly squeezed and a fragrant aroma.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY: MAKE 3D TOMATOES

Say: Today, we are going to make our own paper tomatoes to take home.

Ask: What are the stages in the life cycle of a tomato?

Say: The life cycle of a tomato has the following stages: seed, plant without flowers, plant with flowers, unripe tomato, ripe tomato.

Ask: What color of tomatoes do you see in the store?

Say: Tomatoes are ripe when they give slightly with a light squeeze and have a strong aroma. Ripe tomatoes come in different colors depending on the kind of tomato that you grow.

Ask: What variety of tomato would you like to make and take home today? We have red tomatoes, yellow tomatoes, and green tomatoes.

Directions:

1. Give each student one piece of construction paper or cardstock in their color of choice, along with one piece of 2" x 2" green construction paper. Hand out the glue and scissors for the students to share.
2. Demonstrate how they will turn their paper horizontally and create accordion folds along the paper to make 6 even strips. Have students cut along the folded lines so they have 6 strips.
3. Play the Youtube video to show them how to make their tomato. Pause the video as needed as they work and follow along with it - youtube.com/watch?v=dM7I9H0Uds4.

Ask: If our tomatoes were real, what would we find inside of them?

Say: Tomatoes have flesh and seeds on the inside of them.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- *Life Cycle of a Tomato* worksheet: k5learning.com/worksheets/kindergarten/science/plant-life-cycle-b.pdf
- *How to Grow Tomatoes* video: youtu.be/9z95PIRMtBg



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Red, yellow, and green construction paper or cardstock
- 2" by 2" green construction paper or cardstock squares
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers, colored pencils, or crayons



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