

Using the Garden to enrich Geography and History Classes

In the spring, plant crops that can be used in the 7th—9th grade history and geography classes. These can be harvested in the fall:

millet	potatoes	soybeans	quinoa
sorghum	cotton	corn	squash
sesame	safflower	beans	cowpeas
coffee	tea	banana	rice

Plant these crops in the fall for a winter harvest:

wheat	barley	cover crop	flax
lentils	chickpeas	sugarbeets	fava beans

These crops tie in to the California State Standards and lessons being taught in the classroom.

World/Medieval History (7th Grade)

World History classes explore origins of many foods, fibers and spices and how trade and exploration helped to shape history.

United States History (8th Grade)

U.S. History classes are interested in many of the colonial crops that were important in the growth of our nation. An example is cotton and the invention of the cotton gin.

Geography (9th Grade)

Geography classes use the garden as a hands-on simulation of what it would be like to live and survive in parts of the world that rely on small, subsistence garden plots. Commercial, subsistence and sustainable agriculture are explored along with the effects of each on the earth and humans.

Students are able to observe, harvest, process and save seed of main crops that are part of global trade. They also are learning about fall harvest celebrations around the world.

For each crop the place or origin, as well as climate and natural vegetation regions are determined. Students explore today's major world producers of many of the crops.