OUTDOORS & GRADES 3-6 & FALL, SPRING & ACTIVITY



# Six of One, Half Dozen of the Other

## DESCRIPTION

Groups of students use multiple senses to find and classify contrasting objects in the natural environment.

### OBJECTIVE

To use the senses to identify and classify objects in the garden laboratory.

## MATERIALS

\* One egg carton per group of three

## PREPARATION

On the bottom of each egg carton write two words. One should be a likely quality of a garden object, such as "wet." The other should be its opposite ("dry"). Use words that will encourage students to use their senses, such as dark/light, rough/smooth, dull/colorful, scented/unscented, scratchy/soft, etc. Label each carton with different opposites. To discourage unsupervised tasting, avoid opposites that refer to taste.



# CLASS DISCUSSION

What senses can we use to explore opposites in the garden? In this activity you will be searching for objects that have a specific quality, and those that have the opposite quality. What are some examples of opposites?

### **ACTION**

1. Divide the class into groups of three. Tell the class that each group will get a special collecting container in which to collect 12 items. They shouldn't let any other group see the secret information on the bottom of the carton.

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- 2. Distribute the cartons and demonstrate to each group how the opposites should be placed, with six of each category in a long row. On the bottom of the carton are secret words that tell what category of objects to collect. Every group will be collecting different opposites.
- 3. Remind students to handle everything gently and to take only small specimens. Allow enough time for students to explore the site and gather the items.
- 4. When groups are finished, have them exchange cartons and try to determine the opposite categories that the other group collected without looking on the bottom of the carton.
- 5. Discuss strategies that groups used for identifying the other group's classification.

WRAP UP

What things that you collected felt the scratchiest, looked the most colorful, had the strongest scent, etc.? (*Include an answer from each group about the best example in each category*.) How did you find objects for each category?

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