



# Seeds Soil & Surprises

## SECTION 3:

## *How Do People Use Plants?*

Teaching Resource for Grades K-2



### Quick Guide



#### Time to Complete



**Preparation Time:** Up to 10 minutes



**Preparation Time:** Up to 30 minutes



#### Key Question

How do people use plants?



#### Key Take Away

People use plants for food, smell, and cloth.



#### Key Task

Use the presentation to encourage inquiry as to the relationships between plants and people: the ways that plants contribute to human products, how those products are made, and how people use those products.

### Opportunities for Inquiry



#### Start Presentation

**PAUSE ON SLIDE #5**



*Food: Tomatoes*





## Things to Point Out

*Optional: Give students opportunity to explain product process in images before describing it.*

One of the most immediate ways that people use plants is for food. Fruits and vegetables are important for a healthy diet.

Here, we see the process of a tomato from the plant, to your kitchen, to being cooked to make your tomato sauce.



## Continue Presentation

PAUSE ON SLIDE #6



## Things to Point Out

Here are some more examples of plants that people eat. Do you recognize these?



## Observe & Interpret

- What are some of your favorite fruits and vegetables?
- Where do you get your fruits and vegetables?
- How do you think they get to you?
- How do you like to eat them?
- Do you have any special ways of preparing your produce?





Continue  
Presentation

PAUSE ON SLIDE #7



## Scents: Perfume

People also use plants to create certain scents.

*Optional: Give students opportunity to explain product process in images before describing it.*

Here, we see the process of making perfume from roses. We start with the roses growing on the rose bush; pluck the petals; soak them in hot water; and then we have a scented liquid that we use as perfume.



Things to  
Point Out



Continue  
Presentation

PAUSE ON SLIDE #7



## Scents: Other Products

Here are some more examples of scented products people make from plants. Do you recognize these?



Things to  
Point Out





## Observe & Interpret

- Can you think of scented items that you see or use every day that might be made from plants?
- What kind of scented products do you think people make from plants? How might they be made?
- What are some plants that smell good, and what new products would you make with those scents?



## Continue Presentation

PAUSE ON SLIDE #7



*Clothes and Cloth*



## Things to Point Out

People also rely on plants to make certain kinds of cloth for clothing. One of the most common is cotton.

*Optional: Give students opportunity to explain product process in images before describing it.*

Cotton is formed in fruit called bolls; it is then plucked and the seeds are separated from the fibrous hairs they produce. Then the cotton fibers are spun and twisted into thread, which is woven together to make your clothes.



## Observe & Interpret

- Where do you think cotton is grown?
- What might this plant need to grow?
- How do you think the cotton is collected from the plants?
- How do you think the cotton fibers are woven into cloth?







**Continue  
Presentation**

**PAUSE ON SLIDE #9**



*Cotton Field*



**Things to  
Point Out**

Here is a picture of a cotton field. Plants like tomatoes and roses can be grown either in small gardens for personal use or in large fields for many people. However, plants such as cotton require many more steps and more work to be made into products for people to use. Lots of people need the product, but most people cannot make a cotton plant into a shirt by themselves.



**Observe  
& Interpret**

Why might it be difficult for individual people to grow cotton and make their own clothes?



**Continue  
Presentation**

**PAUSE ON SLIDE #10**



*Observe*



**Things to  
Point Out**

People use plants to make a variety of items to improve our quality of life. Thank you, plants!

