espace pour la vie montréal

AGES 8 TO 10

THE AMAZING EARTH

EPISODE 1

Arriving

LESSON PLAN 1

This teaching kit was designed by the Biosphère – a museum of Espace pour la vie. It gives teachers and students an opportunity to deepen their knowledge of **small-scale agriculture, the stages in a plant's life cycle, and food self-sufficiency.** For ease of use, we went for a simple, user-friendly format inspired by a restaurant menu.

APPETIZER	Start by listening to the first episode of *The Amazing Earth* podcast series in class. Listen to the other episodes in sequential order for the full story.
MAIN COURSE	You can organize a fun activity outdoors (Dish 1) or indoors (Dish 2), or both.
DESSERT	Finish off with an optional activity to further explore the themes.

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Montréal

Québec

Photo : Steven Weeks, Unsplash

Appetizer

Listen to Episode 1

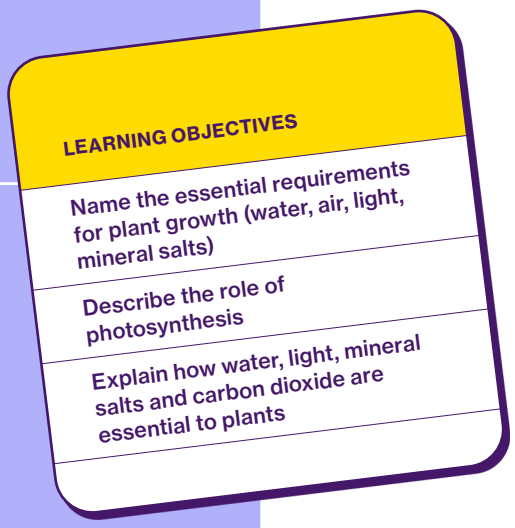
PREPARATION TIME	15 minutes
ACTIVITY TIME	13 minutes listening time + 10 minutes discussion
RESOURCES	Teacher: Follow-up questions

The episode begins with the arrival of our three friends at the ultra-modern pavilion on Terracosti Island: Akio the former professional athlete, Paola the solitary scientist, and Billie the uniquely talented singer. The small group is greeted by Greta Tunebird, the eccentric scientist in charge of this ecological reality show.

Their first challenge: Feed themselves by their own means! Akio suggests starting a rooftop garden to be self-sufficient in food. Paola has brought seeds and shares her knowledge of beneficial associations between plants (companion planting) and pollinators. In a magical moment, Billie makes the plants grow through song, enabling the group to quickly harvest vegetables. Meanwhile, a mysterious character named Slinky prowls the island, voicing his doubts about the “Amazing Earth” project, which he describes as a conspiracy.

Dish 1

Bingo in the Garden

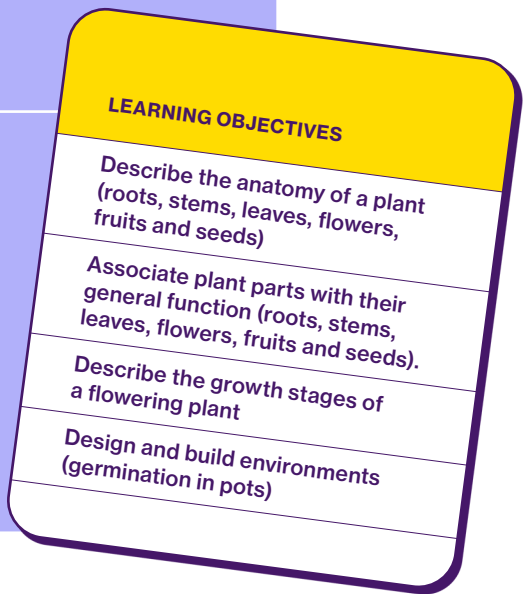


PREPARATION TIME	About 15 minutes
ACTIVITY TIME	1 hour (can be divided into 2 shorter sessions)
MATERIALS	White 8½ × 11 inch sheets of paper (ideally printed in colour) A hard surface for writing Graphite and coloured pencils
LOCATION	Outdoors, schoolyard, park, alley, etc.
RESOURCES	Teacher: Teacher's workbook Student: Student's workbook

Paola, Akio and Billie have taken up the challenge of starting a garden to produce their own food. To make a garden thrive, it's important to know what plants need. In this activity, you'll learn what those requirements are, the elements essential to their growth, and the characteristics of three types of garden: food, pollinator, and hybrid.

Dish 2

A Plant's Life Cycle

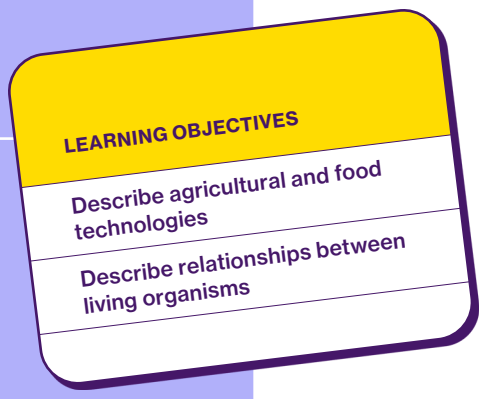


PREPARATION TIME	About 30 minutes
ACTIVITY TIME	15 minutes a day for 5 days
MATERIALS	Glass jars, ideally Mason jars Cheesecloth or J-Cloth Plastic containers Germinating seeds Water White 8½ × 11 inch sheets of paper Pencils Reusable paper towels
LOCATION	Indoors
RESOURCES	Teacher: Teacher's workbook Student: Student's workbook

For their first challenge, Paola, Akio and Billie grew a garden to feed themselves by their own means. But to grow fruits and vegetables, it's important to know all about plants, their life cycle, and the different growth stages. With this activity, you'll be familiar with these stages, with a focus on germination.

Dessert

Garden Companions



PREPARATION TIME	About 1 hour to read the teacher's workbook, print and cut out the cards
ACTIVITY TIME	45 minutes
MATERIALS	White 8½ × 11 inch sheets of paper Scissors
LOCATION	Indoors
RESOURCES	Teacher: Teacher's workbook Student: Game, Grid

Our three characters have learned a lot about plant associations, also known as companion planting. Now it's your turn to choose your garden companions! Create winning teams by matching cards, and find out why these plants can be paired.