

ACTIVITIES FOR "STONE SOUP"

THEME: *Community can join together to find solutions to individual problems. The lessons of sharing, teamwork and charity combine to help the hungry.*

READING: Read the class the story of Stone Soup. The message of the book is sharing, pooling resources, and working together to achieve something that one person alone may not be able to do. How can you bring this to life in the classroom? Ask each of the students to bring in one can of vegetables. You can decorate a cardboard box to look like a big soup pot, and put all the cans inside. Then donate it to a local soup kitchen or food pantry, where they will use it to feed your neighbors. Arrange a visit to the soup kitchen if possible.

DISCUSSION/ENACTMENT: Start by drawing a large soup pot on a piece of paper. Listen to Tom Chapin sing "Stone Soup." Why did the soldier put a stone in the pot to make soup? Can you eat a stone? Have the children make a list of the ingredients mentioned. Draw each ingredient, or cut out photos from a magazine, and paste them into the pot. What other ingredients could be added to make a tasty soup? Make your own Stone Soup: ask each student to bring in one ingredient. Have a parent come in to show the children how to prepare the soup. When it is ready, serve it up to the whole class. If you have made enough, invite another class in to share the soup. Have the children relate the story of Stone Soup in their own words, and one by one stand and tell which ingredient they contributed for the feast.



FORAGER HUNT: The children in the song were foragers, searching for food and provisions. Can you be foragers in the classroom? A forager hunt is a game where teams of players search for items on a checklist. Divide your class into teams with several children on each team. Use the suggestions below, or customize your lists to support your curriculum. Use different items for each team, or order the lists differently so they are not all searching for the same item at the same time. For younger children, you may want to use pictures rather than a list. If you give clues rather than specific items, the groups can work cooperatively together to figure out and locate the items. Have a small prize for the winning team, or let them make up the next list. Play again with a list for outdoor foraging (a pine cone, a stick, a stone, a leaf, an insect).

A book with a two word title

Something to write with that is blue

Something square

Something made of wood

Something that starts with a "C"

Something you wear

Something that grows

Something with numbers

ACTIVITIES FOR "STONE SOUP" (continued)

COMMUNITY: We know that a lot of our neighbors are hungry. Even though fruits and vegetables are considered the foundation of a healthy diet, the hungry and needy rarely eat fresh produce. Emergency food programs usually provide canned or boxed food because fresh food spoils quickly. There are many community programs that are working to fill that gap. The Garden Writers Association has introduced a program called **"Plant a Row for the Hungry."** Home gardeners, farmers, schools, youth and community organizations, and area businesses can help make a difference for their neighbors in need by planting a row of seed and donating their surplus to local hunger-relief organizations. Since 1995, over 18 million pounds of produce providing over 72 million meals have been donated by American gardeners. All of this has been achieved without government subsidy or bureaucratic red tape - just people helping people. Visit www.gardenwriters.org for info and resources.



Need help getting started? Many gardeners have a wealth of plant seeds left over at the end of the gardening season. A community of gardeners offer free seeds or seeds to exchange. Search for them online.

Nothing beats the taste and nutrition of fresh-picked vegetables. Growing and eating from your own garden can improve your health, save you money, increase your sustainability, and decrease your carbon footprint. And most important, your garden can help a lot of people in need.

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