

Lesson Details: Step 2 - Germination, Part b) Story Telling

Whole Class Activity Explanation:

One of the Finding Out experiences is the whole class activity detailed within Step 2 - Germination, Part b) Story Telling. Below are the details required for the teacher to run this:

Supplies required:

You will need 4 pieces of fruit e.g. apple, pear, banana and an orange, a vegetable knife and a cutting board.

Directions:

- Students to sit in a circle with the teacher.
- Place the fruit in front of the student sitting to the immediate right of the teacher.
- The class should imagine that these are “strange and exotic fruit” that nobody has ever tasted before so they do not know whether they are good or bad to eat.
- The teacher then whispers the instructions of how to prepare each of the fruits to the student on their immediate left.
- This student then whispers to the person on their left and so on until it has passed all the way around the group to the student with the fruit.

An example of the message may be:

"You can eat the banana, but it must be peeled and mashed to get rid of the poison, the pear is OK eat but the apple is poisonous, the orange is good to eat but it must be peeled and cut into four pieces."

Last student:

When the last student receives the whispered message, they must then prepare the food for eating, and you will see if the information has travelled around intact. The complexity of this activity may be modified to suit the age level.

Possible class discussion opportunities:

As a class, discuss what would happen if someone passed on the wrong information.

- Now imagine if every person in the circle represented one generation. The person who gave them the message was their mother or father and the person they gave it to was their son or daughter.
- Discuss where all the information is stored and what happens to it if an older person dies before passing their knowledge on.
- What are some other methods of passing information from one person to another, without writing it down, or by telling someone by word of mouth? Examples may include artwork, dance, story or song. Working in groups students could now try one of these other methods to pass on the message about food preparation to the class.

This activity has been sourced from the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Aboriginal Trail Teacher's Kit. Further details can be found at: <http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/education/primary#Indigenous>