

lesson topic: **Seed Catalogue Search**

overview

This lesson focuses on seed catalogues as a source for learning key ideas and details, craft and structure, as well as integration of knowledge and ideas of non-fiction or informational text.

objectives

Students will learn:

- to use text features and search tools of seed companies to locate information to understand the characteristics of plants sold by various seed farms (via catalogues and online resources).
- to interpret the information presented visually and quantitatively about plants in seed catalogues and websites to gather information for a seed order
- to use a seed catalogue to demonstrate the ability to locate the answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

materials

For this lesson, you will need:

- seed catalogues

background

Seed catalogues gather and present a wealth of information about the plants they are selling to gardeners. This resource is available in print and online for most brands. These publications are a terrific inspiration for garden-based activities that support classroom learning.

learning activity #1

1. Begin the lesson by introducing the concept that information can be organized by characteristics and systems can be assigned to make this information accessible. Information about the plants gardeners grow is organized in the catalogues and websites of seed farms. Explain to the students that today's lesson will allow them to find information about plants for the school garden in seed farm catalogues and websites.

2. Provide a seed catalogue to each student, or group of students. Alternatively, search various seed farm websites.

3. Ask students to look at the catalogues (or websites) and note the information shared via charts, graphs, images, symbols, indices, and text.

4. In their garden notebooks, ask the students to start a list of features that are described for each type of plant, or group of plants, in the catalogue. Also note the way this information is organized.

5. As a group, share some of the features that the students reported. This may allow other student to think of new ideas.

6. Provide the students with a type of plant or plant to locate in the catalogue (or on the website) using the table of contents or index features (or search functions on the website).

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learning activity #1 (*continued*)

7. In their garden notebooks, ask the students to note one or several characteristics about the plant or group of plants. Encourage students to examine any keys, graphs, images, charts, and or text to gather the information.

8. As a group, share some of the characteristics of the assigned plants or plant groups that the students recorded. This may allow other student to think of new ideas.

9. Provide the students, or a group of students with a set of parameters for a seed order (2 packets organic lettuce, 1 ounce snap peas, 1 packet heirloom sunflower, etc.) in a particular seed farm catalogue or website requiring the identification and interpretation of various informational text tools used in the seed catalogue (keys, graphs, images, charts, and or text).

10. Ask the students to locate the information and determine the cost, recording the information in the their garden notebook.

11. As a group, share how your group used the seed farm catalogue or website to locate the information and determine the cost for the seed order.