



Family Fun Activities

Ladew Topiary Gardens

3535 Jarrettsville Pike

Monkton, MD 21111

(410) 557-9570

\$ Admission

www.ladewgardens.com

Druid Hill Park Conservatory

3100 Swan Drive

Baltimore, MD 21217

(410) 396-0180

Rainforest

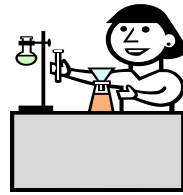
c/o National Aquarium in Baltimore

501 E. Pratt Street

Baltimore, MD 21202

(410) 576-3800

www.aqua.org



Career Connections

Take a few minutes to discuss, with your child, these different career opportunities for people interested in the study of plants.

Botanist

scientist who studies plants

Biologist

scientist who studies science of life and of living organisms

Horticulturist

one who cultivates a garden, orchard, or nursery; one who cultivates flowers, fruits, vegetables, or ornamental plants

Landscape Architect

one who practices the art of arranging or modifying the features of the landscape for aesthetic or practical reasons

Prepared by
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A Parent's Informational Guide to the Science Unit:

Budding Botanist



Grade 2





Budding Botanist

Budding Botanist is a second grade unit in which students are engaged in hands-on, minds-on activities that allows them to discover information about plants. Some of the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum Indicators addressed in the unit are listed below:

1.0 Skills and Processes

B. Applying Evidence and Reasoning

1. People are more likely to believe your ideas if you can give good reasons for them.

3.0 Life Science

A. Diversity of Life

1. Compare and explain how external features of plants help them survive in different environments

C. Genetics

1. Explain that there are identifiable stages in the life cycles (growth, reproductions, and death) of plants and animals.

a. Compare and describe the changes that occur in plants during their life cycle.

c. Given pictures of stages in the life cycle of a plant, determine the sequence of the stages in the life cycle.



Unit Vocabulary

The vocabulary listed below is a sampling from the Budding Botanist unit. Encourage your child to use these words when telling you about what they are learning during this science unit.

adaptation – a change that happens over a long time that allows survival in an environment

dispersal – spreading things from one place to another, such as seeds

embryo – the part of the seed where a new plant begins to grow

flower – the part of the plant that contains the features needed to produce seeds and/or fruit

germinate – when a seed begins to grow

leaf – the green, food-making part of almost all plants

nutrients – vitamins and minerals in food

petals – the colored part of most flowers that attracts insects and birds

pistil – the part of the flower that produces seeds

photosynthesis - the process a plant uses when it takes energy from the sun then combines with carbon dioxide to make food for plants

pollen – tiny grains produced in the stamen of a flower

root – part of a plant that grows underground

seed coat – outer layer or covering of a seed

shoot – a new leaf on a seed or plant

stamen – part of the flower that produces pollen

transplant – to move a plant from one place to another



Books to Read

Take some time to read books about plants and gardens with your child. Books can be found in the non-fiction section of the library. You can also find books on this topic in the children's section of your school and public library.

Flower Garden by Eve Bunting and Kathryn Hewitt

The Magic School Bus Plants Seeds: A Book About How Living Things Grow by Joanna Cole, John Speirs, and Bruce Degan

From Seed to Plant by Gail Gibbons

The Gardening Book by Jane Bull

Internet Sites



The Great Plant Escape
<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/gpe/>

The Life Cycle of Plants
http://www2.bgfl.org/bgfl2/custom/resources_ftp/client_ftp/ks2/science/plants_pt2/index.htm

Plant Life Cycle
<http://www.brainpopjr.com/science/plants/plantlifecycle>