

Art, Technology, and....Grass?

Materials:

Sponges (any kind will work, the larger, flat European kind provide more room for designs if you can find them)

Trays (lunch trays, disposable tupperware, or go individual like the kind they put take-out sushi in at the grocery store. They give them to me at when I ask and tell them it is for a school project. I offer to pay, but they never let me, so nice!)

Grass seed (any kind works, wheat and rye grasses are fun because they are edible)

Water

Cookie Cutters in spring designs (older students can draw their own designs, thick and blocky works best)

Sharpie markers

Scissors

Preparation:


Soak the grass seed in water overnight. This can be a little teaser for the students of what surprise project is to come!

Procedure:

Show the students the video of the printGreen project and discuss how when used in harmony with nature it can benefit plants, animals, and humans. How and why do



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they think these students came up with this project? What else could it be used for? green roofs, living walls, etc...

Create your own living design:

Trace the design onto the sponge in marker and then cut it out.

Soak the sponges in water so they are wet and place into the trays.

Spread the soaked grass seed onto the sponge design and place the tray and sponge in a sunny window. Will the seeds grow if they are spread on the sides? Try it!

Add water into the tray as needed to keep the sponge saturated and watch the grass grow! In a few weeks it will be full height.

Students can measure and track the growth of the grass and then once it is fully grown they can cut it to different heights and track how fast it grows back. Use measurement and graphing to integrate this project into the math curriculum.

Taste it if you grow wheat or rye grass and talk about how that grows into the wheat and rye we eat as bread or some drink as healthful juice. Which form has the most nutrition? (The grass tastes sweet.)

Have students brainstorm ideas as to what they could do with these living grass art pieces in the realms of art, design, and science. How is the sponge like the material they use in living walls in urban environments?





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