



Keep It Beautiful

Contact Information

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Grades

K-5

Objectives

Students will be able to: 1) describe how beautifying an area prevents littering; and 2) design and implement a beautification plan.

Method

Students will clean up an area and then beautify it by planting flowers they have started from seeds.

Materials

Small cups (paper or foam polystyrene) or peat pots (several per student), trays, flower seeds, soil, scissors, pens, newspaper, trash bags

Vocabulary

Beautify, graffiti, litter

Procedure

1. Ask students what it means to LITTER (throw trash in a place other than a trash can or bag). Have students answer the following questions.
 - Would you feel bad about littering in an area where there is already a lot of trash lying around? Why or why not?
 - Would you feel bad about littering in a very clean area? Why or why not?
 - Would you feel bad about throwing litter into a flowerbed? Why or why not?

Discuss the fact that people tend to litter less in a well-kept and well-landscaped area.

2. Introduce the term BEAUTIFY (and beautification). Ask students to think of ways to beautify an area. For example, we could pick up litter, plant flowers or trees, paint a mural on a wall. Or paint over GRAFFITI. Beautification prevents littering because people litter less in pretty areas.
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3. Tell students that they will be beautifying an area by cleaning it up and then planting flowers that they have started from seeds. As a class, choose an area to beautify and design a plan. What flowers will be planted? Consider growing season, annual or perennial, color, height, lighting, and maintenance requirements (native wildflowers are often hardier and require no daily watering or other special care.) Draw a simple plan of your beautification project. Display the plan in your classroom.
4. Start your flowers indoors 5-6 weeks before you intend to plant them outside. To prepare to plant the seeds, lay out the supplies. Have each student follow these steps:
 - Cover work area with newspaper (if indoors)
 - If using cups, punch 2 holes in each of the cups with the tip of a pen for drainage. If using peat pots, check to see that the drainage holes exist. Place the cups or pots on trays to catch any water that drains out after each watering.
 - Fill each cup or pot about 2/3 full with soil.
 - Place 2 seeds on top of the soil, and cover with more soil. Water the seeds.
 - Place in a sunny window and keep moist.
 - If more than one seed sprouts in a cup, allow the healthiest seedling to grow by cutting away the other one.
5. A week or so before you plan to plant the flowers, conduct a litter pick-up in the area. Pass out trash bags to teams of students; they can each hold one side of the bag and pick up litter with their free hand. Caution students not to pick up any sharp objects. Students may want to bring gloves from home to protect their hands.