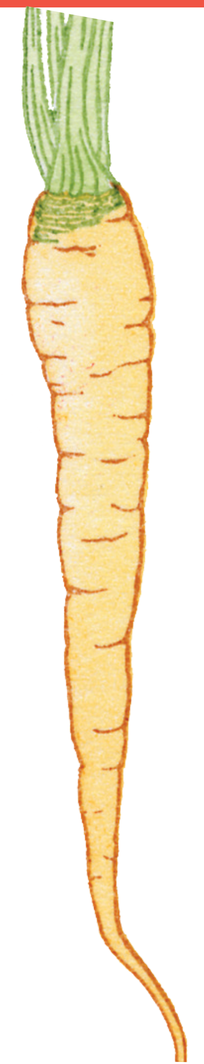
Engaging Curious Learners in the Kitchen and Garden

Presenters: Raquel Vigil and Russell Sterten

THE EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD PROJECT

Agenda

- Session goals
- Visual Exploration Activity
- Presentation on strategies for increasing curiousity
- Knowledge bank
- Large share-out
- Mini-design challenge in breakouts
- Share out and dialogue
- Closing, open questions



Workshop Goals

- To encourage educators to think about the instructional strategies they use to support curiosity in their kitchen and garden classrooms.
- For educators to get an opportunity to connect with each other and learn best practices
- For educators to walk away with a set of strategies/and or tools that support curiosity in the classrooms.

Three Pillars of Student Engagement

Academic: Ensuring that students have all the information and tools they need helps to facilitate engagement with the content you are teaching.

Intellectual: Activating students' curiosity is foundational to student engagement. Students come to the classroom with their backgrounds, experiences, and interests, and they may not all connect to the material in the same way.

Social-Emotional: For students to engage academically and intellectually, they need to establish the necessary trust with their teachers and peers.

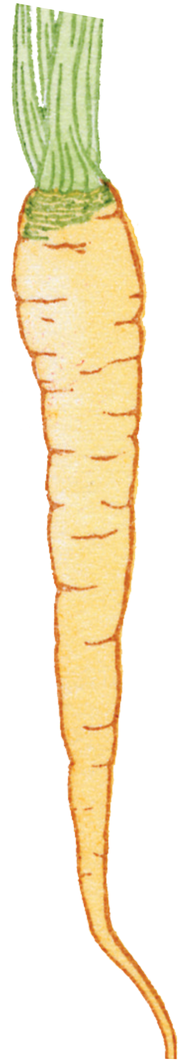
A Closer Look: A Visual Exploration Activity

What Does it Mean to Activate Curiosity?

"Curiosity is the desire to learn, to understand new things, and to know how they work. It is a desire to understand what you do not." – Thinking Museum

In our kitchen and garden classrooms it means...

- We encourage students to think critically. We don't simplly give them the answers but make room for them to discover the answers.
- We encourage sensory observations.
- We encourage students to ask questions and take the time to ask our students questions



Tenets for Developing Curious Learners

Encouraging students to think critically: Asking the 5 Y's and how of a situation for the purpose of learning something new.

Encouraging questions and questioning: Encouraging students to ask — and try to answer — questions.

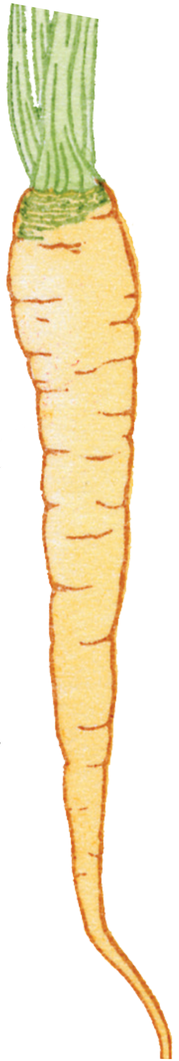
Make space for sensory observations: We learn through our senses.

Encourage Student to Think Critically

Helpful strategies: “Thinking Routines” are teaching strategies that help students think critically about a topic. They provide frameworks for engagement.

Think, Pair, Share:

- Think: give students an interesting broad question to think or write about briefly.
- Pair: pair students, and ask them to discuss the questions with their partner.
- Share: Students share their discussion ideas with another pair of students or the instructor leads a whole group discussion about the topic.



Encourage Student to Think Critically

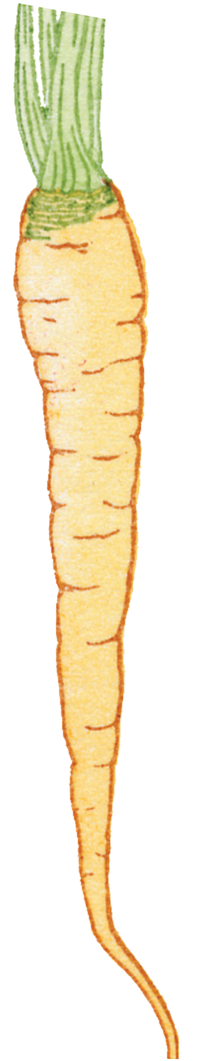
See, Think, Wonder

- Choose and present an image.
- Invite students to observe what they see.
- Invite students to “look closer.”
- Create a list of observations, and invite students to make inferences about what they see.
- Ask the students what their questions are.

Encourage Student to Think Critically

The Three W's:

- Why might this [topic, question] matter to me?
- Why might it matter to people around me [family, friends, city, nation]?
- Why might it matter to the world?



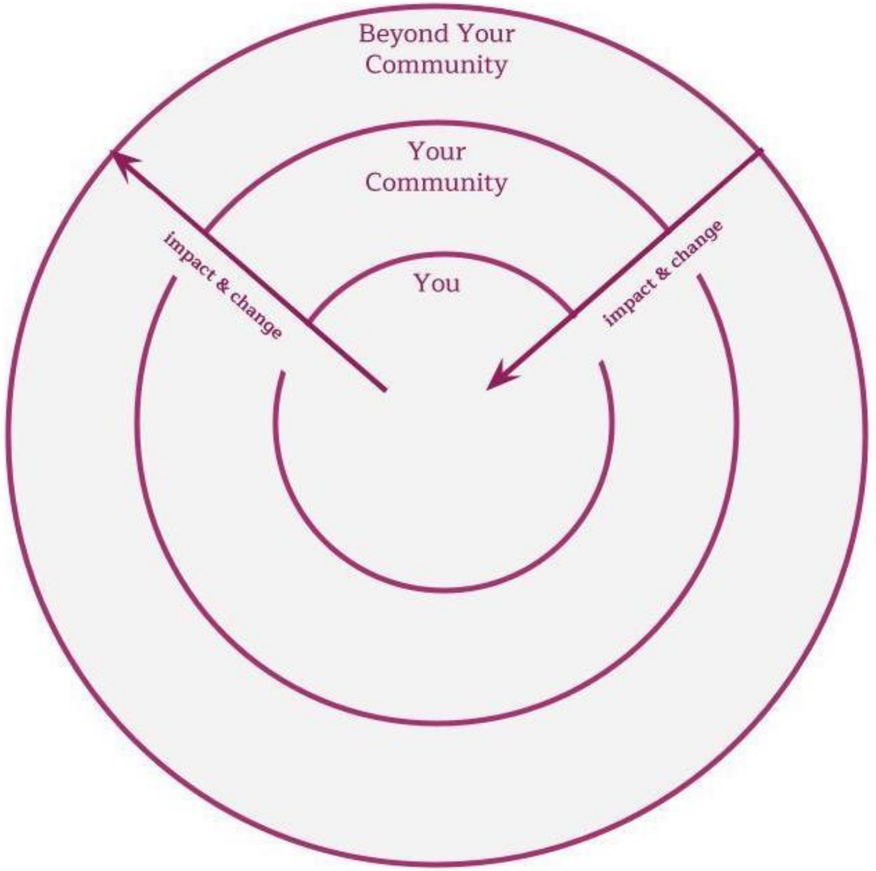
Examples of How "Thinking Routines" are Utilized

Uses:

- Thinking routines are helpful when you want students to process new information.
- Helpful for reflections.
- Useful when you are posing questions to students.

Flower Discovery

Circles of Connection



Encouraging Questions and Questioning

Helpful Strategies:

- Encouraging the "why"
- Open-ended questions.
- Create dialogue with your students.

Crafting open-ended questions: If the question could be answered with a yes or no, it’s not open.

Some good open-ended questions:

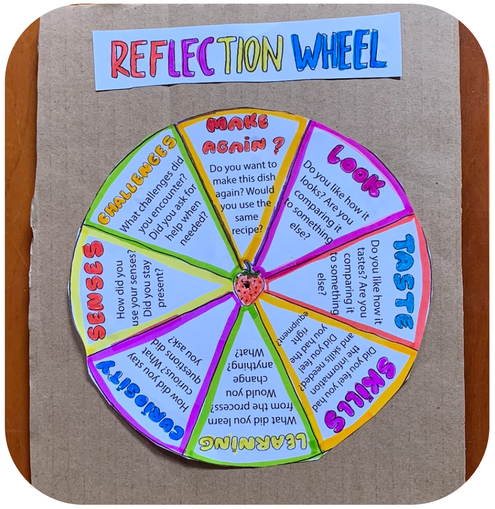
- What would happen if...
- What would it be like to...
- Why did...
- How do we know that...
- What did you think when...

Examples of How Open-Ended Questions are Utilized

Questions are ALWAYS helpful in your instruction. Challenge yourself to create a lesson where 80% of your direct instruction is asking questions.

Crafting a Checkin Question

Kitchen Reflection Wheel

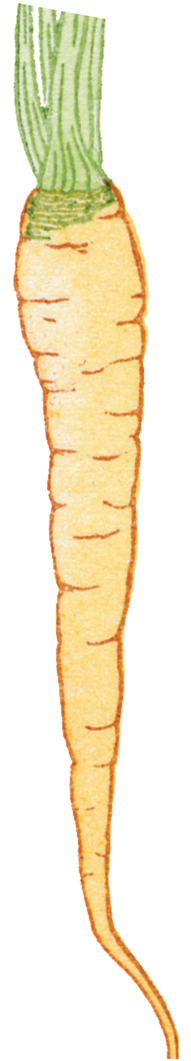


What is Organic?

Sensory Learning

Helpful strategies: Encourage students to use descriptive words. If you google “sensory language” or “sensory vocabulary” lots of banks of words come up that can be helpful.

- Smell
- Touch
- Taste
- Hearing
- Feel
- Sight



Examples of Sensory-Centered Lessons

Food Memories

Exploring a Community Garden

Reflecting on Food

Sound Mapping

Knowledge Bank Padlet Activity

Explore the Padlet and add some examples and links to lessons and resources that utilize the tenets we just described. If you don't have any examples, feel free to explore the resources we added and respond with questions.

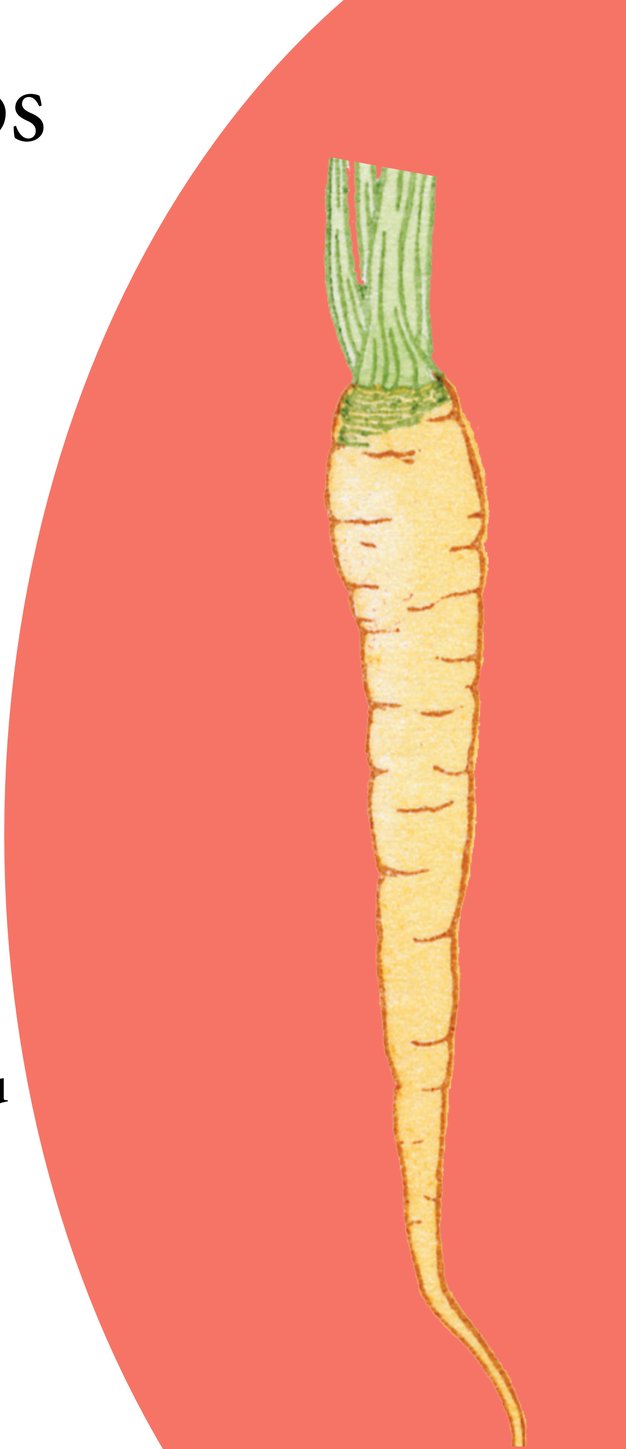
Click the link in the chat or scan this QR code to access the Padlet.

Mini-Design Challenge in Breakout Groups

Prompt: How might you design an interactive activity in kitchen or garden (or both) focused on strawberries that utilizes the tenets of critical thinking, encouraging questions, and promoting sensory observations?

In your breakout group, use the following steps to design an activity that fits the prompt. Decide on one person to take notes and share what was dicussed:

1. Decide on who your audience is – what age range is the activity for?
2. Decide on what the primary activity is – what will students be doing? Are they planting strawberry plants? Are they tasting strawberries?
3. Choose one of the three thinking routines examples (or a different one you like to use!) in the activity. How and when in the activity will you use the thinking routine?
4. Come up with a set of questions that will prompt students' curiosity. How might you design a lesson where most of the talking points is asking and responding to questions?
5. Integrate some sensory observation into the lesson. It can be just taste, smell, sight, or more open-ended.



Final Tips and Suggestions

Encourage questions in dialogue, in how you design lessons, etc.

Make room for the unstructured.

Be enthusiastic and curious yourself.

Create time to consider and reflect.

Thank you!