

Teacher's Resource Guide for Carlos And The Squash Plant

Multicultural Thematic Unit For Carlos And The Squash Plant Written by Jan Romero Stevens Developed by Scott Newcomb, Madison Schools

Summary...

This is about a young boy, who worked with his family everyday in their garden. Each night he would come in very dirty. His mother would ask him to take a bath, but he would not do so. He would go into the bathroom and wash up instead of taking a bath. A squash plan began to grow out his ear. In the end he took a bath and scrubbed and scrubbed, and the squash plant shrank and disappeared.

Reading Level ...

Second through Fourth Grade

Themes...

Cleanliness Farm Life Squashes New Mexico

Before Reading Questions...

Where do you think seeds can grow? How important is it to keep clean and why? What types of plants can we grow in gardens around here? What do you think they might grow in gardens in New Mexico?

Purpose...

Vocabulary...

After Reading Questions...

Where is the strangest place you have ever seen a plant grow? Do you think it is possible to grow a plant in your ear? Why or why not? What excuses have you used, or could you use to get out of taking a bath?

Language Arts ...

Social Studies ...

Get on the Internet and research the types of products grown in New Mexico.

Math...

Bring in several squashes to the classroom. Break students into groups of 3-4. Have students estimate the weight, diameter, length, and number of seeds in the squash. Then have students

actually measure, weigh, and the count the seeds.

Art...

Draw a funny picture of a plant growing in a strange place. Make sure your picture is large enough so it is easy to see and colored so it is interesting to look at.

Science...

Background Information ...

About the Author...

Jan Romero Stevens is a newspaper and magazine writer. She had used her love of culture and her background knowledge of living in the Southwest to write her first book. Although Jeanne Arnold is not an authentic Hispanic illustrator, she does a nice job of portraying Hispanics in her artwork. She became inspired and motivated through her research of Mexican, Latin and Taos painters.

Suggested Readings ...

Willie Bea and the time the Martians landed Zeely The Farolitos of Christmas: a New Mexico Christmas story Cuentos: tales from the Hispanic Southwest