



*Gardening for Kids* unearths how easy and educational gardening can be. Try out these projects and experiments to encourage kids to use their STEAM skills.

## READ

**Before:** Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what do you think this story* is about? Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings.

**During:** Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in everyday conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Key Words

climate – the usual weather conditions in a particular place or region

acidity – the level of acid in a substance, such as soil or water

biospheres – the regions of the surface, atmosphere, and hydrosphere of the earth occupied by living organisms.

composting – creating a decayed mixture of plants (such as leaves and grass) that is used to improve the soil in a garden

dehydration – to remove water or moisture

germinate – to begin to grow

radicles – the radicle is the first part of a seedling (a growing plant embryo) to emerge from the seed during the process of germination. The radicle is the embryonic root of the plant and grows downward in the soil (the shoot emerges from the plumule).

phototropism – the orientation of a plant or other organism in response to light, either toward the source of light (positive phototropism ) or away from it ( negative phototropism )

- After:**
- What are the parts of a plant?
  - What is the scientific method of thinking?
  - Once scientists have gathered all the facts, what do they form?
  - Do you think gardeners are also scientists? Are the predictions scientists make always correct?
  - The best experiments only change one thing at a time, what is that called?
  - What do scientists hope to find out by changing only one variable at a time?
  - What are some of the easiest plants to grow?
  - What are some of the tools and materials you will need to help you garden?

# DO

It's time to start thinking like a scientist. Come up with a hypothesis and gather your gardening tools! Watch these videos for inspiration and ideas on creating your own garden hypothesis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kTt4xHHLzk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lly75dEbXE8>

