

First visit to the LGL

Age Group: 6th grade

Time: 50-60 minutes

Materials:

- Markers
- Pencils
- Paper cut to button template size
- Small garden shovel
- Picture of worm
- Ear of corn

Prep in advance:

- Cut appropriate number of button nametag templates.

Description:

After staff introductions, students will create nametags so that everyone can learn each others names. The staff will then go through an introduction to the LGL, telling students about what they can expect each week when they come to the LGL.

Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Understand the main objectives for visiting LGL and what is expected of them.
- Recognize LGL staff
- Make a button name tag to wear
- Create a journal.

Environmental Education Guidelines:

- Questioning & Analysis

Benchmarks: None

Safety:

- General garden safety, as expressed in the rules section below:
 - stay on the paths,
 - ask before you eat,
 - stay within sight of an adult

Instructional Sequence:

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Introduce each teacher/staff member to the class by sharing your:
 - Name
 - Place(s) you are from
 - short work history
 - example of something you like to do for fun
 - what you are looking forward to doing at LGL with 6th graders
 - option to answer one of the student's questions

Make button nametags (15 minutes)

- Explain that we are going to make button nametags so we can learn each other's names.
- Give each student a blank button template paper and a pencil.
- Instruct students to write their names inside the circle VERY CLEARLY so that we can

read them. Let them know that the very edges of the circle will wrap a little bit around the button edges.

- Explain the students can share markers when they are ready to color in their names to make them BOLD.

5 main topics of LGL lessons (20 minutes)

- Explain the 5 main topics that will be covered at weekly visits to LGL over the next year. Staff can take turns explaining each of the topics.
 1. Explain the **Gardening rotation**.
 - Explain that students will learn where food comes from and how to grow it.
 - They will learn skills like planting seeds, transplanting, using garden tools, weeding, watering, and working in the greenhouse.
 - Show the students the garden shovel as an example of a tool they'll be using.
 2. Explain the **Worms and Vermicomposting rotation**.
 - Explain that they will learn all about worms and vermicomposting.
 - Ask, does anyone have an idea about why worms are something that gardeners are interested in?
 - Yes, worms take food waste and decaying matter and turn it into good food for plants.
 - You will be monitoring and caring for the worms that live at LGL
 - Show the students pictures of worms.
 3. Explain the **Wildlife and Ecology rotation**.
 - Every student will have a notebook that they write observations and reflections in. This includes bird watching, exploring for insects, looking for tracks and observing the changes over the seasons. We will use our senses to learn from nature.
 4. Explain the **Weather Rotation**
 - Explain that they will be monitoring the weather.
 - Ask, Can anyone share why they think we would like to record the fluctuations of weather? Yes, we need to understand the patterns in weather so we can predict how to care for the plants.
 - With your notebooks and Weather Log at LGL we will be able to track the temperature all year and compare it to years in the past.
 5. Explain the **Harvest of the Month rotation**.
 - In this rotation we will be focusing more closely on a specific food. For example, for the month of October, the HOM is Corn and we will be learning all about the type of plant that corn is, how it grows and how it is used.
 - Show the students an ear of corn and pass it around.

Explanation of rotation

- Class time will be divided like this:
 - Beginning of class: you will take out your Learning Gardens Notebook, and learn in the classroom for a short time.
 - Then each student will be a part of a small group and stay with their group and a

team leader (LGL staff) throughout their time at LGL. The group will rotate to three activities for 20 minutes each; Harvest of the Month, Gardening, and one of the WWW stations.

- At the end of the rotations, each student will return to the classroom to write a reflection about their time at LGL in their notebooks.
- Ask if there are any questions.

Preview of next lesson (*5 minutes*)

- Give the students a preview of next week.
 - Next week students will be with their smaller groups for the first time to meet their team leader and tour the gardens.
 - You will get to see the different stations and learn how to monitor Worms, observe Wildlife, and record Weather.
 - We will also talk a lot about what RESPECT looks like at the LGL.
 - You will learn and begin to practice using the Greenhouse, the garden tools, and the gardens respectfully.
 - We will return to the classroom.
- Ask if there are any questions.

Cleanup (*2 minutes*)

- Collect button nametag templates and label with class name & time.

Assessment/Evaluation:

Using their journals, have the students write about what they are most excited to do at the gardens over the next year.

