



## STUDENT DESIGN ACTIVITY

by Remi Ham

**Summary** Designing with students can be a simple process. The following activity is a fun and engaging way to capture student design ideas.

Providing standardized pieces removes a focus on artistic expression and helps students focus on key design features such as spatial arrangement and circulation, garden programming, crop selection, and other design ideas. Students are less worried about how pretty the plan looks or if it “looks” as good as their neighbors. Instead, students focus on ideas that are in the plan.

This design freedom helps bolster design confidence but also generates substantive ideation. Teachers can create their own garden pieces or take inspiration from this standardized “kit,” which includes popular garden features drawn to scale – planter boxes, benches, a storage shed, a compost bin, and pollinator flowers. Of course, if students have additional ideas beyond what is provided, they are encouraged to draw them directly on the plan. Using dry-erase markers on laminating activity sheets and plan pieces provides an additional layer of design flexibility.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- 1. Pre-Design Activity**  
Facilitate a brainstorming session with students. Allow them to dream and ask visionary questions: ie. What do they want to grow?
- 2. Students Present Ideas**  
After groups brainstorm ideas, have them present to the larger group. Identify common themes and ideas.
- 3. Activity Tips.**  
If possible, laminate the design activity sheet and cut parts in advance of activity. Use dry erase markers for design flexibility. Encourage students to add ideas beyond the assets provided.
- 4. Student Design Activity**  
Distribute design kit activity sheet amongst students. Depending on the class size have students work in groups or independently. Allow students to present their ideas and identify common themes or ideas.

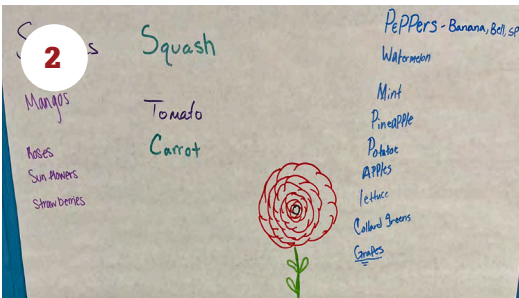
Remember to encourage students to have fun, think outside the box, and dream big. Beyond gathering student ideas, this exercise aims for students to develop critical thinking skills, learn to advocate for their ideas, and build meaningful connections with the proposed garden space.

# STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS



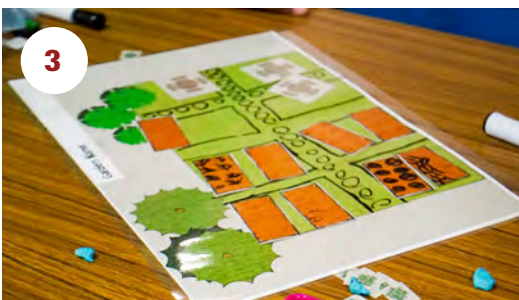
## Pre-Design Activity

Prior to the design activity, facilitate a brainstorming session with your students. Allow them to dream collectively and ask visionary questions. Questions can include: What they would like to see in the garden? Or what would they want to grow?



## Presenting Ideas

After groups brainstorm ideas, have them present to the larger group. Identify common themes and ideas. Place these ideas on a large white board or poster sized board.



## Material Prep

If possible, laminate the design activity sheet and cut parts in advance of activity. Use dry erase markers for design flexibility. Encourage students to add ideas beyond the assets provided.



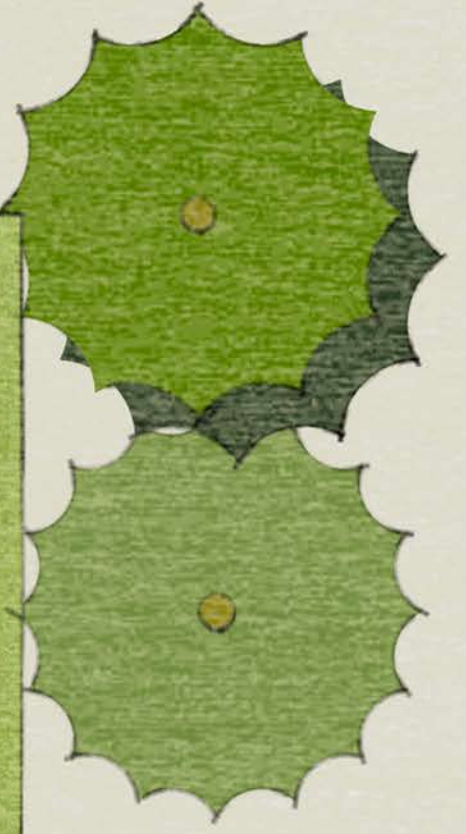
## Student Design Activity

Distribute design kit activity sheet amongst students. Depending on the class size have students work in groups or independently. Allow students to present their ideas and identify common themes or ideas.





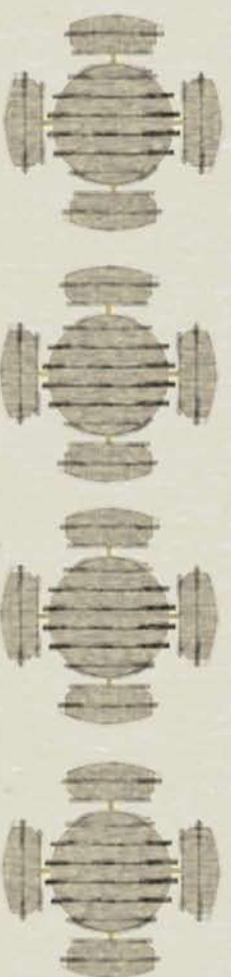
**Garden Name:**





## Garden Assests:

Cut the garden icons and distribute



## Teacher Suggestion:

Laminate plan and garden assets. Use a dry erase marker for design flexibility.

## Ideas for Items to Draw:

Pathways

Garden entry

Garden storage

Teaching Area

Plants for each planter

