

## Theme-Based Lesson Planning

Darlene Penner, CESLM Resources Coordinator



Teaching theme-based lesson plans is a great way to instruct students about various seasonal activities, such as planting a garden in spring. Many students may already know about gardening from their home country, but don't know the vocabulary or phrases used to discuss gardening tools, supplies, and techniques.

In a garden lesson plan for any level, start off with a warm-up question about gardening in their home country or brainstorm vocabulary related to gardening and write the words on the whiteboard. Use activity sheets for students to understand gardening terms, tools, nature, and animals related to gardening. Also, use coloured flash cards at the end of the lesson for review. Print them out with matching vocabulary to play a memory game as partners or put the flashcards on the board and students find the matching vocabulary to place under the picture.

Extend your activities for 2 or 3 days of lesson plans by purchasing inexpensive onion, carrot, tomato or other seeds, dirt, and cups to plant them in. Leave them in your classroom to watch them grow or let them bring them home and report on their progress the next class. I did this in my class, and they loved it, even if they were adults. Hands-on activities have always been well-received in my ESL classes.

For a lesson plan related to gardening go to [elcivics.com/esl/gardening/lesson](http://elcivics.com/esl/gardening/lesson). Also, on our website [Teacher Resources/ESL Theme-based Resources](#) link we have gardening worksheets to add to your lesson plan under [Spring and Summer Resources/Gardening Lesson Plan/ESL Gardening Tips](#).

Feel free to check out some of the other links as well, and our [Facebook](#) page for other ESL resources to help plan your lessons.

For more help, or to contribute to **Teaching Tips**, contact Darlene at [events@eslcooperative.ca](mailto:events@eslcooperative.ca)