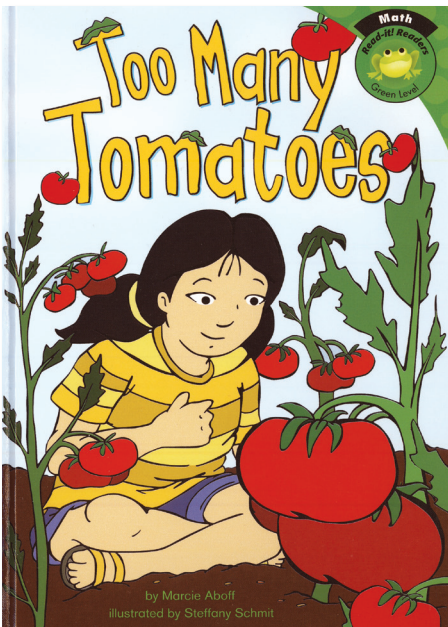


DIG INTO SUMMER READING!



Summer is the perfect time to discover new books. Here are three good ones, as well as activities you can do after reading each.

Virginia's Agriculture in the Classroom program has a big list of recommended books on its website at AgInTheClass.org.



TRY THIS! The neighbors in *Too Many Tomatoes!* create various dishes with their fresh tomatoes. Here's one you can try at home (Remember to have an adult help with the cutting).

Too Many Tomatoes

(SUGGESTED AGE: 5-7)

Rachel helps Mr. Thomas plant his vegetable garden and produces a bumper crop of tomatoes! Come along as she tends the garden and then shares with the neighbors.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The average American eats 22 pounds of tomatoes a year!



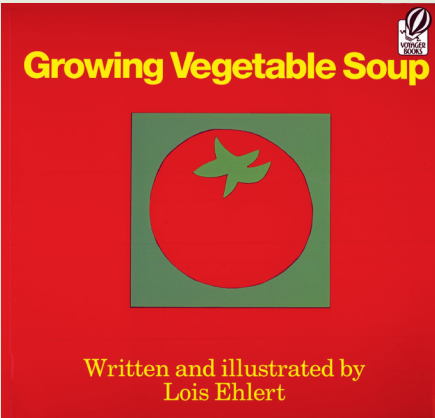
Garden Vegetable Wraps

INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup garden vegetable-flavored cream cheese
- 4 flour tortillas
- 1 cup spinach leaves
- 1 large tomato, diced
- ¾ cup shredded carrot
- 8 slices of cheese
- 1 bell pepper, chopped

DIRECTIONS

1. Spread 2 tablespoons of cream cheese over each tortilla. Top with spinach and tomato to within 1 inch of the tortilla's edge. Top with shredded carrot, then cheese, and then chopped bell pepper.
2. Roll up each tortillas tightly. Serve immediately, or wrap them securely with plastic wrap and refrigerate no longer than 24 hours.



Growing Vegetable Soup

(SUGGESTED AGE: READ-ALOUD OR 3-7)

This colorful book shows the process of growing a garden, and the different vegetables within it. It includes a recipe at the end to make your own vegetable soup.

TRY THIS! The first step the father and child take in *Growing Vegetable Soup* is to plant the seeds. You can do the same thing!

Seed Viewer

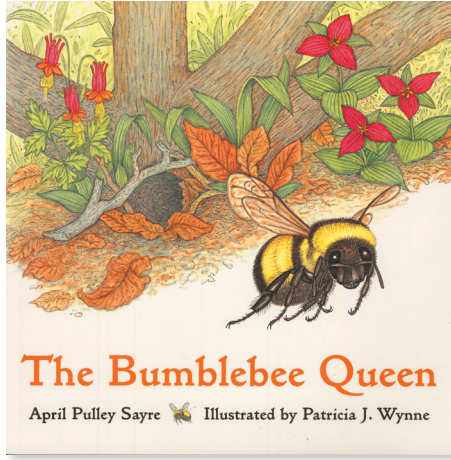


MATERIALS

- Clear plastic punch cups
- potting soil
- vegetable or flower seeds
- water

DIRECTIONS

1. Fill a plastic cup with potting soil.
2. Press seeds into the soil, making sure to place them against the inside of the cup so you can see them.
3. Keep the soil moist, and place the cup in a warm, sunny place.
4. In a few days you will be able to see the seeds sprout and grow!
5. You can replant your sprouts in a larger container or in your backyard garden.



The Bumblebee Queen

(SUGGESTED AGE: 4-7)

Journey along with the Bumblebee Queen as she collects nectar for her young and tends the hive, and learn about the life cycle of a bumblebee.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Honey bees communicate with each other by dancing.

TRY THIS! Create your own Bumblebee Queen bookmark.

Bumblebee Queen bookmark

MATERIALS

- wooden craft stick
- white and black pipe cleaners
- “googly” eyes for crafts
- craft glue
- yellow and black markers
- large yellow craft pom-pom



DIRECTIONS

1. Use markers to draw alternating yellow and black sections on the craft stick.
2. Glue pom-pom to top of stick, and then glue two googly eyes to the pom-pom.
3. Twist white pipe cleaner around the middle of stick to form wings.
4. Cut a 2-inch segment off a black pipe cleaner, and twist it around the top of the stick to create antennae.

Summer garden word search

B M C S X P I D S P R K U U A
 G A R D E N E Q C E M C N K Z
 Z X E O T E U O B P T U U J P
 M Y L I W A R M Z P C H C Y E
 K P B N S N U P D E R S Q B J
 R W A H Z C O P R R S U E E K
 A Z T W U P I C K E A E L A D
 E B E C T L I O S R T P E N I
 Y I G D N O B X T D N A C D V
 Z S E I W D M T N A L P W S I
 Y Q V I N T S A V U S H S N R
 L V Z G H R K C T H A M Z P P
 P F N K T I Q V N O F U I I B
 O G A A X V N U Z S Y Q I H V
 O F R O U L U J J Z O C G H R

- bean
- corn
- cucumber
- garden
- pepper
- pick
- plant
- seed
- shuck
- soil
- squash
- tomato
- vegetable
- water
- weed
- worm

Answers on Page 29.