

# CREATE YOUR OWN PIZZA GARDEN!

**Focus Lesson:** Create Your Own Pizza Garden!

**Materials:**

*Grow Your Own Pizza* by Constance Hardesty  
 Chart paper  
 Markers  
 Photocopies of pages from *Grow Your Own Pizza* by Constance Hardesty for student use (or multiple copies of book)

**Time:** 2-3 45 minute periods

**\*Common Core Standards:**  
**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1**

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information

**Thinking Skill:**

Organization  
 Creating a grid  
 Making a step by step plan

**Objective:**

Students will work in groups to make a plan for a garden, starting with the tools they will need and ending with the layout grid that is appropriate to help their plants grow.

**Connection:**

Students will be involved with the very important step of thoughtful planning. They will see how critical a good plan is to the final product and how much organizing goes into gardening.

**Explicit Instruction:**

Ask students what they think they would need to “grow a pizza”. Brainstorm their answers on chart paper. Then introduce *Grow Your Own Pizza* by Constance Hardesty. The purpose is to show the students how to come up with a plan to grow their own pizza using pages 16-19 for Queen Margherita’s Pizza Garden.

First read pages 16 and 17. Use that information to create a list of:

- needed supplies (2 cherry tomato seedlings, several cloves of garlic, 1 bush basil seedling, 5 gallon container for garlic and tomato, 6 inch pot for basil, a 2 ft by 2.5 ft plot to plant your garden, a cage for tomatoes, watering can, mulch)
- a Safe to Plant date using page 6
- a drawing of the garden with to scale measurements of the garden plot

**Guided Practice:**

In groups of 2-4 allow students to pick a different garden from *Grow Your Own Pizza* by Constance Hardesty. In small groups they will figure out the necessary supplies, a Safe to Plant date, and a “to scale” drawing of the garden plot.

**Independent Practice:**

Independently, students will reflect on what they learned from this lesson.  
What new information have they learned about planning a garden?  
Do they think they are ready to plant a garden?  
Why did they choose that particular garden?  
Are they ready to plant their garden?

**Reflection – Group Share:**

Each small group will share their garden plan with another group.

**Reading list:**

*Grow Your Own Pizza* by Constance Hardesty

**Teacher Note:**