



VICTORY GARDENS

Lesson and Activity Suggestions for Middle School **Garden Photo Fun**

You might not think scientists and historians have much in common. However, they use many of the same skills to answer their questions. Observing and documenting data, are key tools for both scientists and historians.

Beginning with the American Civil War in 1861, photographers used still images to document the battles, the people and all the hardships. These photographs did more than just document the war. The photographs that were taken, brought the battles to the people at home. For the first time, people could see the devastation through images they would have never seen. Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner, George Barnard, and Timothy O'Sullivan, photographers during the Civil War, captured what words could not. A picture with no words can be misleading. Captions would be added to these photographs by people who observed the event.



Richmond, VA following the end of the war.



The power of documenting and observing goes back through history. Instead of photographs, pictures or diagrams were used. Born in 1452, Leonardo da Vinci, the famous Renaissance artist would painted the Mona Lisa, also had other hobbies. One of those hobbies was sketching. He would observe human corpus and document his findings by sketching and writing notes. This technique was revolutionary to the time and helped to advance the practice of medicine and learning about the human body.

You are going to use the power of photography with your Victory Garden as your subject to document and observe. There are many ways to go about this fun activity; but you will be practicing observation skills and how to document your findings. Have fun taking pictures and be creative! Use filters and try different angles to get a good shot.

Instructions:

1. Visit your Victory Garden with a camera, paper and pencil. As you walk through your garden identifying all the beautiful sights, remember to be mindful where you are walking. Usually, you are in your Victory Garden to waterer weed, but this time it is to document and observe. You are going to have to look a little deeper.
2. Find subjects in your garden you find interesting. Focus, on the plants, insects around your plants, wild flowers, or other treasures from nature.
3. Start taking pictures! After each subject, jot down why you decided to document it, where is was located and any other interesting bits of information.



Small blue bird egg in the middle of my raspberry mounds. No nest or mother bird near by. The egg is not cracked.

For alternative ideas, try the creative activities below.

Create a Victory Garden Photographic Scavenger Hunt

- Find materials representing every color of the rainbow.
- Find 5 types of insects.
- How many different flowering plants can you find?
- Document different leaf shapes.

Make a Garden ABC book Use your Victory Garden to create an ABC book. Take pictures that represent each letter and document what each photograph is.

Photo Fun Example



The potatoes are growing quickly, now that the ground has warmed. Two of the six spuds I planted are growing.



The poll beans that were planted 10 days ago are going strong. They are growing about 1/2 inch each day. Three seeds were planted in each hole and all seem to be sprouting. The warm soil is definitely helping.



The tomatoes are not growing quickly. They lost a few stems in the storm yesterday. I continue to water daily and believe they will grow as the weather continues to warm.



The cucumbers are slow and steady with growth. They like water and seem to be doing well. No flowers yet, but are beginning to vine.



I planted the mint in a pot, as it can quickly becoming invasive and take over other plants. It is doing very well, even when I forget to water it. It is lush and growing well.



Four of the five pumpkin seeds that were planted have sprouted. They are growing quick and I bet they will begin to vine in the next few weeks.