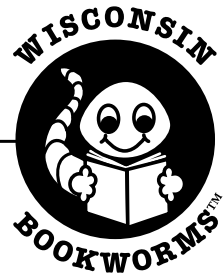


# Activity Sheet



## "The Surprise Garden"

By Zoe Hall, Illustrated by Shari Halpern

Join three children and a collection of dogs, ladybugs, spiders, worms and butterflies as they loosen the soil, plant the seeds, water the soil and watch the small green shoots grow. Surprise! The gardeners find carrots, radishes, broccoli, peas, beans, squash and even a sunflower. When it's harvest time, they have a garden party.

**Before you read this book:** Ask the children to think of animals that eat only plants (cow, deer, elephant, squirrel, sheep, manatee, bee). If they get stuck, suggest they think of some farm animals. Explain that scientists have special names for animals that eat only plants, herbivores. Remind them the fruit and vegetables we eat are plants, too.

**After you read this book:** Sort and identify seeds. Purchase several packets of different kinds of seeds, preferably ones that differ greatly in color and size. Tape one of each seed on the seed packet to use as your key. Mix the seeds and have the children sort by color and size. See if they can identify which plant each seed will grow to be.

### Try this at home:

Make an Herbivore Collage.

- Supplies: pictures of about 10 herbivores from recycled magazines or printed from the computer, a large sheet of paper, safety scissors, glue stick
- Have your child make a collage of animals that are herbivores. Cut out the pictures and glue onto the paper. Write the word "HERBIVORE" on the collage.

Grow a bean plant.

- Supplies: bean seeds, seed starting soil, water, Dixie cups with a hole in the bottom, tray
- Fill each cup  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of soil. Have children make a small hole  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch deep in the soil. Place one seed in the hole and lightly cover with soil. Water bean seed. Place cups on the tray near a window and watch them grow!

**Additional activities:** Watch the "Dinosaur Train" episode "Triceratops for Lunch." Read "Curious George Plants a Tree" by H.A. Rey.

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