

# Jefferson's Gardens: A Landscape of Opportunities: Section 2 – An Experimental Vegetable Garden

## General

### Grade Level

Middle School

### Author Info

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Shaler Area Middle School

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### Type of Lesson

Hands-on

### Duration

Up to 1 month

### Interdisciplinary Connections

This unit correlates with English/Language Arts, Science, Social Studies curricula and Humanities curricula.

## Objectives

### Overview

Students will study Jefferson's concept of microclimate and water conservation at Monticello and they are given the opportunity to monitor their observations of growing their own vegetable (a radish) similar

to Jefferson's detailed recordkeeping of his vegetable garden at Monticello. Students will also discuss microclimate at Montalto (mountain next to Monticello); comparing and contrasting agricultural concepts and conservation nowadays.

## **Prior Knowledge**

Students will be provided with information from the Monticello website and interrelated resources.

## **State Standards**

PA Core Standards: Reading in History & Social Studies (6-8); Reading Informational Texts: CC.8.5.6-8.A,B,D-G,J; Writing in History & Social Studies (6-8); CC.8.6.6-8.A-I.; Reading in Science & Technology (6-8); CC.3.5.6-8C,F-I; Writing in Science & Technology (6-8); CC.3.6.6-8A-I.

## **Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

Students will develop an understanding of how Thomas Jefferson incorporated plants and agricultural ideas from multiple foreign countries into his own gardens at Monticello.

## **Technology Connections/outcomes**

This section is coordinated with the following sections: Jefferson's Gardens: A Landscape of Opportunities: Introduction to Project-Based Learning and Instructions to the Unit, as well as:

Lesson 1 – A Perpetuating Flower Garden

Lesson 3 – Jefferson: Creating Personal Space for Self-Reflection

Lesson 4 – The Art of Calligraphy

## **Additional Learning Outcomes**

Students will develop an understanding of Jefferson's fascination with plant experimentation and gardening techniques for future generations to expound upon. Jefferson's tolerance with unsuccessful crops and his determination to persevere with successful solutions provides inspiration for individuals today.

## **Essential Questions**

Refer to questions in PowerPoint in "Handouts and Downloads."

# Procedures

1. See the following in "Handouts and Downloads"
  1. Powerpoint: "An Experimental Vegetable Garden"
  2. Refer to Handout – "Vegetable Growth Chart"
  3. and reference "Jefferson's Gardens: A Landscape of Opportunities Image Gallery for photos of Monticello's vegetable garden.

## Related Assets

### Handouts and Downloads

- [A Socratic Discussion of Jeffersons decision to situate Monticello on a mountaintop](#)
- [The Socratic Circle](#)
- [Vegetable Growth Chart](#)
- [An Experimental Vegetable Garden](#)

## Materials

### Materials Needed

Handouts:

1. Environmental Observations of Jefferson: "The Socratic Circle"
2. Environmental Observations of Jefferson: "A Socratic Discussion of Jefferson's decision to situate Monticello on a mountaintop" and Environmental Observations of Jefferson: Part 2: Agricultural aspects of Montalto (one download)
3. Observations & Notations "Vegetable Growth Chart"
4. Handout: "Observations of Radish Growth"

Reference: Jefferson's Gardens: "A Landscape of Opportunities Image Gallery"

