



Basic Vegetable Gardening

Lesson 1: Choosing a Site – Where to put your garden

Lesson Summary: Boys and girls will decide on a place to plant the garden.

Boys and girls will learn what is important when choosing a place for a club or home garden.

Time: 30 minutes

What you need:

One piece of paper and a pencil for every 3 members.
Chalkboard or large paper for the leader.

Lesson Steps

1. (3 minutes) – Introduction

Welcome group.

There are 5 main steps in gardening.

Today you will choose a place for the garden. It is Step 1.

The other steps:

Step 2 – Preparing the site

Step 3 – Planting the garden

Step 4 – Tending the garden

Step 5 – Harvest, prepare and eat the food.

2. (3 minutes) – Discuss where to plant the garden.

Plants need good soil, good water, and lots of sun.

It is important to choose a location with good soil, close to water and lots of sun.

Choose land that is flat, if you can.

If the garden will have community help, plant it in the community.

If the garden is only for the school, plant it near the school.



3. (15 minutes) – Rate possible garden sites

Go to 2 or 3 possible garden sites. Rate the site by filling in the chart.

Factor	1 Poor	2 Somewhat poor	3 Not poor, not good	4 Somewhat good	5 Good	Comments
Water						
Sunlight						
Soil						
Topography						
Traffic patterns						

Example chart

Factor	1 Poor	2 Somewhat poor	3 Not poor, not good	4 Somewhat good	5 Good	Comments
Water	X					Water is very far from site
Sunlight			X			Very little shade
Soil				X		Good, fertile soil
Topography		X				Located on hill
Traffic patterns			X			Note in sight of walkway

4. (8 minutes) – Discuss different sites and decide on the best site for your garden

Use the charts to decide which place is best for your garden.



5. (5 minutes) - End the lesson.

Ask the boys and girls these questions:

- What did we do today?
- What are the most important factors to consider when deciding on a garden site?
- What did you find most interesting or surprising about today's lesson?
- When you plant a garden at home, would you use the same factors for deciding on a site? Which would be the same? Which would be different? Why?



6. (1 minute) - Close

Keep all notes and charts to look at later.

