Global Book Bag

Title: The Curious Garden
Author: Peter Brown
Grade Level(s): 2-4

Global Competence: Assess options and consider the potential impact of planned actions

The goal of this book bag is to help inspire students to take action within their communities. As Peter Brown shares in his author’s notes at the end of the book, “What would happen if an entire city decided to truly cooperate with nature? How would that city change?”

The Curious Garden tells the story of a boy, Liam, who decides to nurture a small area of plants on an abandoned raised railway. Through trial and error, persistence and preparation, Liam creates a growing garden in some most unlikely spaces. Through his example, others follow suit and create green spaces of their own to convert the once dreary place into one of beauty.

Bag Contents:

The Curious Garden
Composition book
Pencil and eraser
Crayons or colored pencils
A laminated map of your local community, state, country, or world
Vis-a-Vis marker

Directions:

1. Read The Curious Garden.

2. As you read the book, write questions in the composition book about Liam’s thoughts, events and words you may not understand.

   Make sure you leave enough space between your questions so that you can answer them (or maybe someone else can answer them later when they read the book!).

3. Observe your own neighborhood. Where do you see green spaces? Are they in home gardens? Are there plants growing in spaces between the sidewalks and streets (with or
without the help of humans)? Who takes care of them (residents or city workers?)
Where would you like to see more green space? What would you plant there? Who
would care for that green space? What would happen if you helped to create that green
space in your neighborhood?

Draw an illustration or map of what you see in your surroundings in the composition
book or take a photograph and tape it into the composition book. Add a proposed green
space to your drawing or map. Write about what you saw and learned during your
investigation, and what you would like to see added to your neighborhood.

4. Use the appropriate enclosed laminated local, California, United States, or World
maps and Vis-à-vis pen to mark the locations of some of the gardens you found locally.

OR

With an adult’s help, use your home digital device and Internet (or a school computer) to
do an Internet search for traditional or nontraditional gardens. You can use phrases
such as: “unusual containers for garden plants” and “rooftop gardens” when looking for
images. Choose one example to create a garden planter of your own for your home.

Extended Learning

1. While you are using the Internet, search for a place in your community where you can
volunteer to work in a garden space. If you are able to participate, write about your
experience and share it with your classmates.

2. Write a book review to share with your classmates.

3. Discuss what it means to “assess options and consider the potential impact of planned
actions.”