



Creating an Initial Model of Our Garden Task

Hello Families!

We are learning about how gardeners make decisions about what to do in the garden. Gardeners are constantly observing all kinds of things: how plants are growing, what is happening in the soil, and if something is ready to harvest, to name just a few. Our observations can help us know what to do next in our gardens. Today, we did our first garden walk to observe the garden and all of the life that it supports and is supported by. We also learned about garden tasks, and chose one to focus on. Tomorrow, we will talk about and draw a model of the relationships we observed in the garden and beyond. Looking for relationships in your own neighborhood and with your family can help us observe and design gardens that support relationships for other species!

We invite you to take a family wondering walk

Part 1: (5-10 mins) Go on a walk with your family in your neighborhood or around your yard and look for examples of the garden task your child is exploring at camp. Explore the area in general, and look for different relationships in that place.

- There are many types of gardens to observe! You could visit a parking strip garden, community garden, potted plants, a park, a neighbor's yard, etc.! Visit any space where you might find inspiration.
- If you can't go on a walk, think about a garden that you've seen before, or try to spot one from your window or on the way home from summer camp.

Part 2: (10 mins): Explore the place together. Use your senses -- touch 5 things, listen for 3 things, look for insects or evidence of them -- whatever inspires you and your family. Look for **relationships** between species, plants, rocks, soil, water and anything else in the garden! Ask our child to guide these noticings and to share what they saw on their wondering walk at camp!

Part 3: (10 mins): Draw a model of what you have observed. A model can be drawings, words, or symbols of the relationships between the plants, animals, soil, etc. that you observed. Use arrows or lines to connect the different relationships you are finding.

Part 4: Return your model to camp tomorrow so we can use your neighborhood noticing to add to our garden model at camp!





Family Name: _____

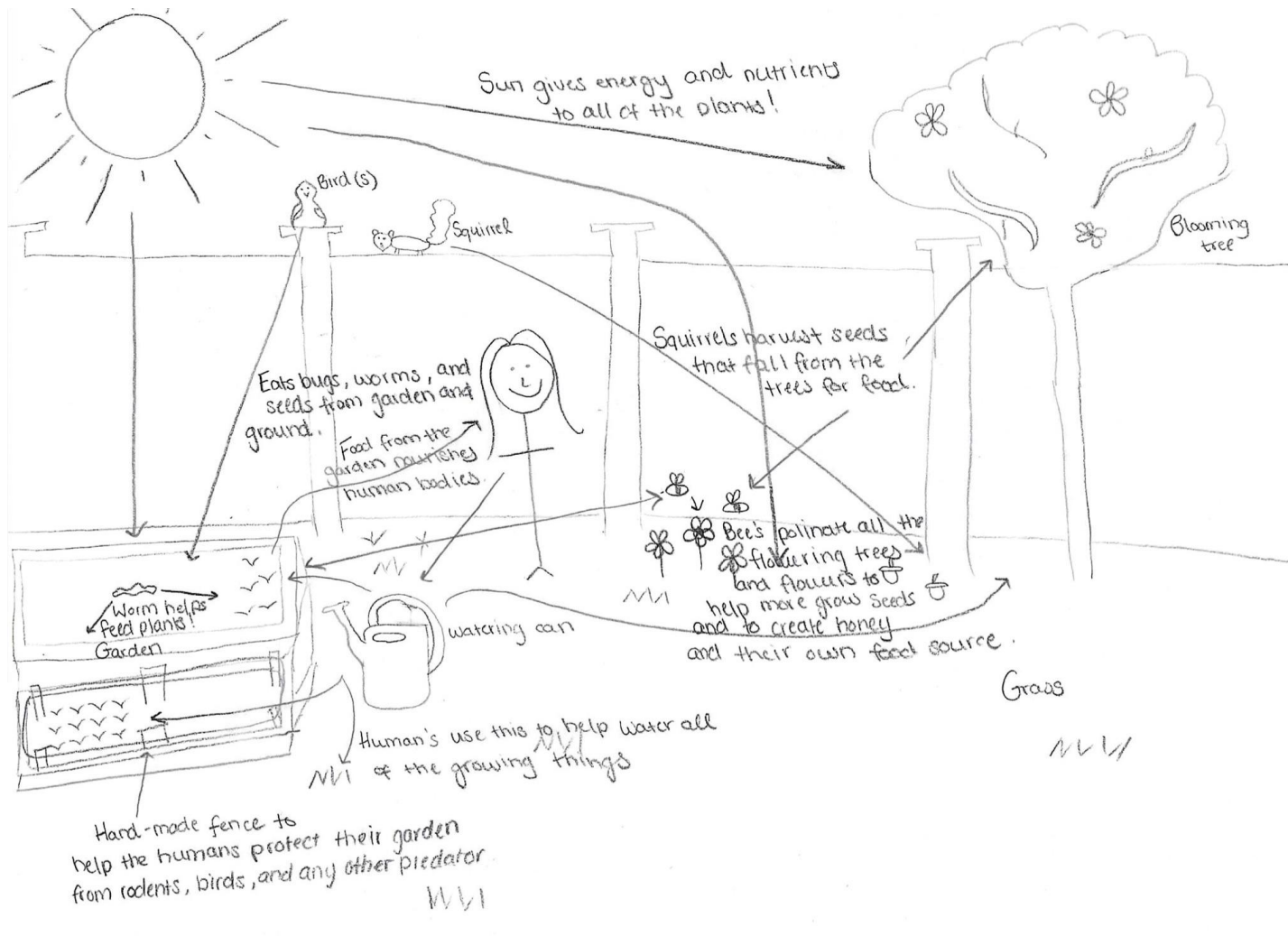
The garden task is: _____

Please return by: _____

Our Family's Initial Model of the garden task (draw and write in the space below; use a separate piece of paper if you want to)

Example

The garden task is: Planting



What you can do to support learning:



- Brainstorm everything you think might be involved in or related to this garden task, even if you can't see it!
- If you think different scales (space, time, size, perspective) are important to explore, represent that on your model.
- Feel free to write labels and explanations of your drawings.
- Write down any questions you have.
- Don't worry about your drawings and what they look like. We are interested in your observations and ideas!

Additional Questions to Consider:

(you do not need to write answers to these questions)

- What are your practices your family does around this garden task?
- What is important to consider when doing this garden task?
- What relationships do you and your family think about when you do or consider this garden task?
- How are things connected in your model, and why might they be connected in those ways? Who benefits and why?
- How might any of this be impacted by the season, the temperature, the time of day, the weather, etc.?

8 Common Garden Tasks

<p>Garden Planning</p> 	<p>Planting</p> 	<p>Plant Growth & Development</p> 	<p>Soil Health</p> 
<p>Watering</p> 	<p>Seed Saving</p> 	<p>Supporting Balance between Species</p> 	<p>Gathering, Harvesting</p> 