

DO IT YOURSELF

DIGITAL SPACE FOR CREATIVITY & LEARNING

Agriculture and growing and breeding plants have been the basic concept for human development for hundreds of years. In the GRASSI Museum for Ethnology there are many items on display which show agriculture and planting techniques as the basis of life for manypeople of the whole world. In the exhibition "Guided tours in one world" you can look at very old clothing of peasants from Japan who have grown rice plants. Hundreds of years ago, Japanese people used to celebrate the feast of the tasting of the first rice harvest. Today the feast has changed into a celebration called the Thanksgiving Day for Labour.

For a long time agriculture had meant hard physical labour with only rare technical support. Today growing and harvesting plants has become a very sophisticated issue. Never before has agriculture been practised so intensively as it is practised today. But, never before have people been starving so heavily, have species been endangered so much and has our climatebeen changing so extremely.

What can we as human society and as single persons do against this dilemma? Certainly you have already heard something about sustainability. Sustainability simply means that we should be more attentive when using our resources, such as wood or water for example. It also means protecting our environment, practising agriculture in an environmentally-friendlyway with more protection for the soil, leaving less garbage behind when producing food, coping with money in a fair and responsible way. We must do all we can for the next generations to pass our world to them as a good and proper place where they could live in.

Have you known that you can become an expert in plants very easily at home? With the handout on the backside you can make our world a bit greener than it is now. But be careful:You need much patience. Be patient with the things you deal with, as they need time to grow. You will be surprised how you are honoured and you will see that your patience was worth it. This activity is very environmentally-friendly because no litter or garbage will be produced.









YOUR MINI-GREENHOUSE UPCYCLING - MAKE NEW THINGS OUT OF OLD ONES

On this worksheet you can find instructions how to build your own mini-greenhouse made from recycling material. This self-made greenhouse will help you to grow a plant from seeds. When the plant has grown enough, you can plant it into the garden or anywhere else, for example into a flower pot, a box for plants, a raised bed or directly into your garden.

You need:

- a packet carton (an empty juice or milk box)
- scissors, a stapler, sticky tape, maybe a knife and an underlay
- plastic wrap (used but without any holes)
- soil and seeds (of your favourite vegetables, flowers or herbs)
- a chestnut driller or something similar

Your instructions for doing your activity step-by-step(You can also look at the drawings):

- 1. Cut your carton along the longest side into two halves of the same size.
- 2. Take away the bottom of the half where the nozzle is.
- 3. Cut the long sides into four similar parts.
- 4. Fold two of the parts in Z-form and put them into the part of the other half of the packet.
- 5. The other two parts are put bow-like on the outside (like a basket) of the other part of thepacket. Fix both parts with the stapler.
- 6. Now take the cut out square and pick holes into it. Use a rough item like a driller and make many little sewage holes into the carton. The wholes should not be too big, because otherwise your soil will rinse through them. Put the plate onto the Z-shaped pieces of cartoninto the packet half.
- 7. Now you can carefully fill the bowl with soil. Grow the seeds according to the instructions on the paper bag (normally 1-2-cm deep under the earth) and coat them a bit. Do not forgetto water them moderately .
- 8. Finally you cover your greenhouse with some plastic wrap (used !) and fix it with some sticky-tape. It is important that it becomes warm and humid inside the greenhouse. So coverthe greenhouse tightly and without holes.
 - 9. Be careful that no mildew grows in your greenhouse. Give some fresh air to the seeds if there will be to many water drops on the foil. Put your greenhouse to a sunny place and do not forget to water it!
 - 10. Ready! Enjoy planting and growing.







