



Key concept

Plant buddies in an herb spiral

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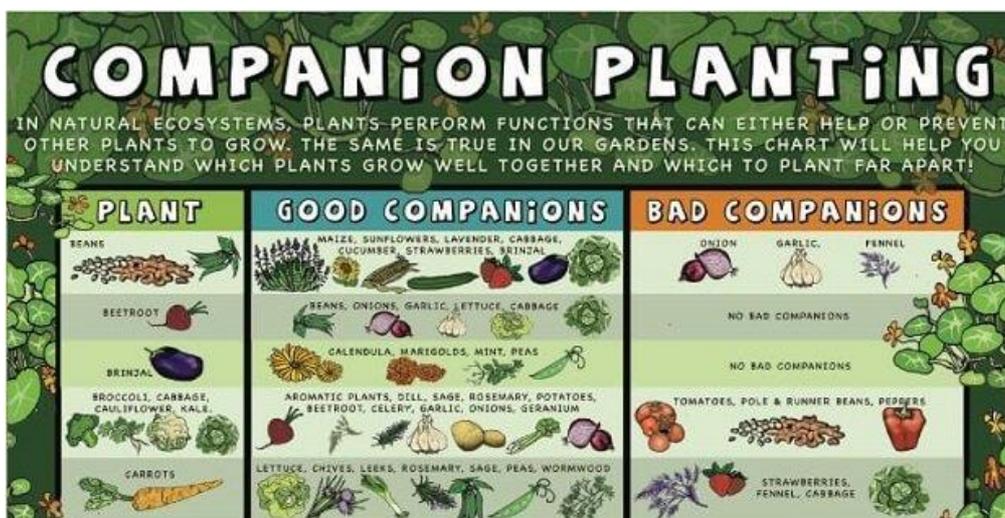
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CONCEPT: Plant buddies in an herb spiral

1- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CONCEPT

Companion planting is a very important concept in gardening, in agriculture and, of course, in Permaculture. Planting different crops, which like each other, together makes them more resilient against pests and diseases, supports pollination, provides habitat for beneficial creatures, maximizes the use of space to increase productivity. Also, plants need empathy, friends and buddies, the right food and habitat, otherwise they attract all kinds of diseases and infections and do not flourish, just like animals and people.

There are a variety of Challenges and games in LivingSTEM, where plant buddies play a major role. The task of the students is to find and spot plant buddies in permaculture gardens and herb spiral. They can even make their own herb spiral in a small box and capture their findings, experiences and creations.



COMPANION PLANTING
IN NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS, PLANTS PERFORM FUNCTIONS THAT CAN EITHER HELP OR PREVENT OTHER PLANTS TO GROW. THE SAME IS TRUE IN OUR GARDENS. THIS CHART WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHICH PLANTS GROW WELL TOGETHER AND WHICH TO PLANT FAR APART!

PLANT	GOOD COMPANIONS	BAD COMPANIONS
BEANS	MAIZE, SUNFLOWERS, LAVENDER, CABBAGE, CUCUMBER, STRAWBERRIES, BRINJAL	ONION, GARLIC, FENNEL
BEETROOT	BEANS, ONIONS, GARLIC, LETTUCE, CABBAGE	NO BAD COMPANIONS
BRINJAL	CALENDULA, MARIGOLDS, MINT, PEAS	NO BAD COMPANIONS
BROCCOLI, CABBAGE, CAULIFLOWER, KALE	AROMATIC PLANTS, DILL, SAGE, ROSEMARY, POTATOES, BEETROOT, CELERY, GARLIC, ONIONS, GERANIUM	TOMATOES, POLE & RUNNER BEANS, PEPPERS
CARROTS	LETTUCE, CHIVES, LEEKS, ROSEMARY, SAGE, PEAS, WORMWOOD	STRAWBERRIES, FENNEL, CABBAGE

Source: <https://steemit.com/permaculture/@open3ye/true-permaculture-episode-3-companion-planting>

2- Activities of the LivingStem project that may be related to this concept

This concept is very much related to the **Ideal Kitchen Garden Game**, where permaculture gardens and herb spiral are designed, planting buddies together. In the process, children/teenagers can capture their impressions and experiences what they learned about buddies in a kitchen garden or herb spiral.

The **Deck of Cards**, where you can find buddies on every card, can be used together with the **Ideal Kitchen Garden** activities to gather matching plant buddies, spot them in permaculture settings and capture them in films.

3- Methodology proposal for the implementation of the activity described above

The setting and framework for the videos can be the classroom, the school kitchen garden or a permaculture farm.

2 classroom preparation hours should be allocated to organise video teams, to gather some background information on companion plants and to create a short video script using the storytelling canvas.

Possible scenes could be:

- capture the process of selecting plant buddies (in case the students/classes build their own herb spiral)
- introduce plant buddies and tell how they support each other
- spot plant buddies in nature and capture the experience

- build a mini herb spiral with plant buddies and tell about experiences and feelings
- play with the deck of cards, gather plant buddies and find them in the garden or use them for their own mini herb spiral and capture them in a film

A good method is to make the video as an interview in a TV show (you can even invent a name)

- “Today let’s explore ... (*insert subject*)”
- Brief explanation of the concept
- What the student will do as an experiment (or hypothesis)
- The different steps of the process and why
- What are the results?
- What is the conclusion?
- “Thank you for watching!”

4- Children involvement in the activity

The children/teachers are involved in all process. They learn about the technique to make videos and edit them, they find out about plant spirals, in the Ideal Kitchen Garden Game they spot the plant buddies and tell, how they can support each other, and they could design and build their own mini herb spiral and explain their choice of buddies in an interview in the film.

The exercise should be playful, fostering curiosity and creativity in the children, so that the storytelling canvas should be relatively open with space for surprise and fun parts.

Sharing and collaboration within groups and between groups should be encouraged.

Depending on the age and skills of the pupils, the teacher will either make the montage of the video themselves or they will guide and assist the students in the process.

5- Links between this concept and science (STEAM) and permaculture

STEAM skills covered are Biology, chemistry, aesthetics, art, design thinking, constructional play, instructional writing/filming, creativity. Plant buddies and companions are very important concepts in permaculture, allowing the plants to empower each other and fight possible pests and diseases.