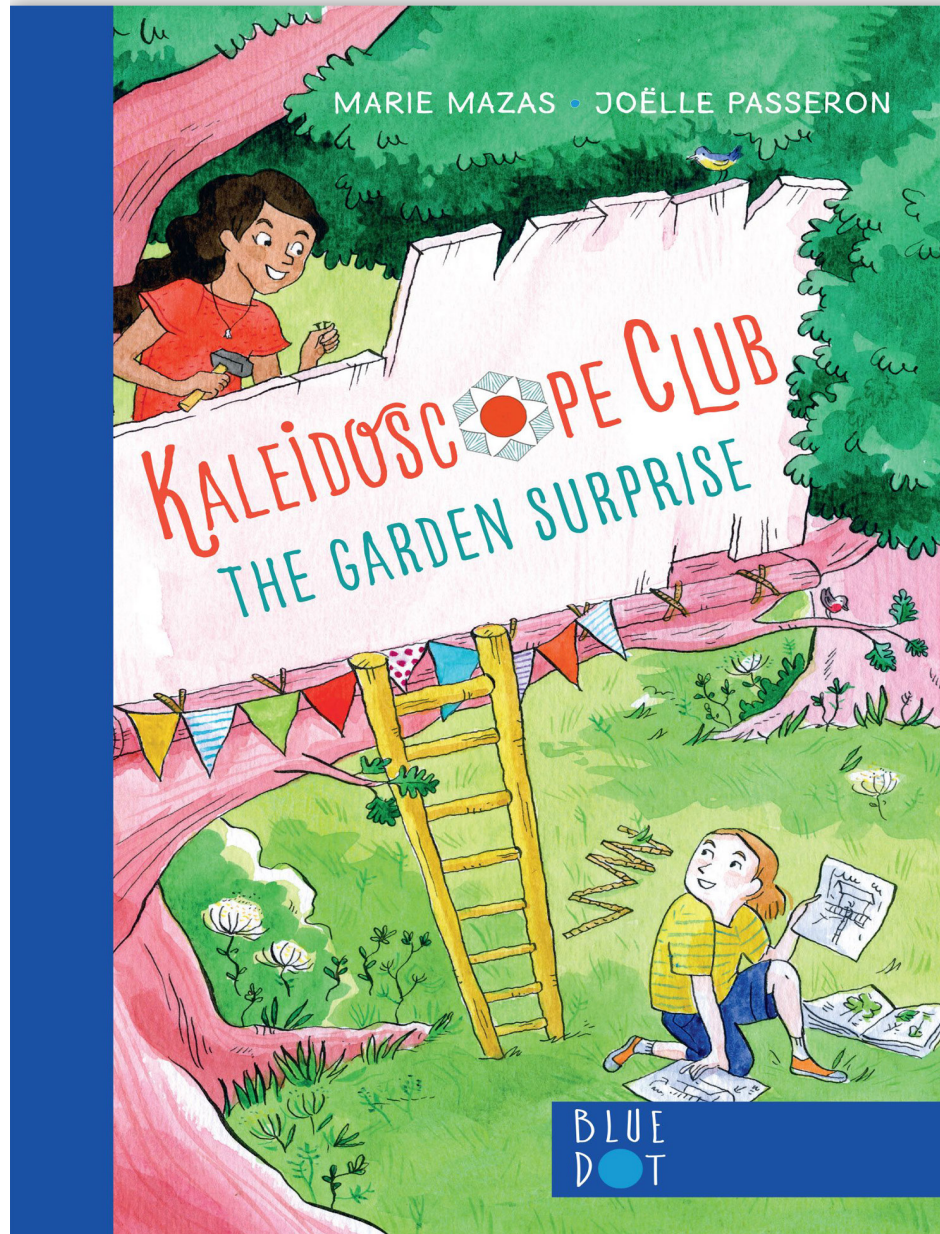




Kaleidoscope Club: The Garden Surprise

Garden Savings Account Activity Guide



The Kaleidoscope Club: The Garden Surprise
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Published April 2, 2024 | ISBN 9798985849462 | Ages 7-10

A Savings Account for Your Garden

A Citizen Science Activity

Citizen science, also called community science, happens when people study the world around them and send the data they collect to scientists. Citizen scientists are people— young or old, who have attended a lot of school or very little, from cities and from small towns—who help collect data for research projects and help to answer real scientific questions.

Read through *A Savings Account for Your Garden* (pp. 128–129). Work as a classroom to make seed savings accounts for each student or for the school garden, if you have one.

You can save many different seeds direct from their plants, for growing new plants or for eating. Though there are many plants that are good for beginning seed collectors, they each require their own collection process. The teacher can do some research ahead of time to see what makes sense for you and your students. This activity suggests saving sunflower seeds for replanting. It requires the teacher to provide sunflower heads ready for harvesting.

Supplies

- Sunflower heads (cut from the plant once the backs of the blooms are brown at the end of the season; leave about a foot of stem attached to the cut bloom)
- One clean bucket or large bowl for each sunflower head
- Colander
- Shallow cardboard boxes lined with newspaper and paper towels
- Airtight, watertight containers: clean glass or plastic containers with screw-on lids
- Labels and markers

Instructions

1. Working in small teams, hand rub each sunflower head over a bucket or bowl to release the seeds.
2. Rinse the seeds in the colander, picking out any petals, bits of dirt, or other items that aren't seeds.
3. Spread the seeds in single layers in the lined boxes so they can dry.
4. The next day, store them in airtight containers, labeling each container with what the seeds are and when they were harvested.
5. Store in a cool, dry, and dark place.
6. In the spring, students can plant at home or in the school garden.

