



LESSON GOALS

- ✎ Learn how to care for and grow living plants
- ✎ Create detailed observations of grass growth

GRADES

5th to 7th

MATERIALS

- ✎ Cups
- ✎ Soil
- ✎ Grass seeds
- ✎ Water

STANDARDS

- ✎ SCI.7.2.6
- ✎ SCI.6.3.1
- ✎ SCI.6.3.3
- ✎ SCI.6.3.4

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- ✎ Ensure the students are actively engaged
- ✎ Assess students based on the detailed observations in their journals

Let's Grow a Savannah!

Practice your students' critical thinking skills as they learn about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo African savannahs! The animals in Africa help maintain the growth of grass and feed themselves. See below for a variety of questions to engage your student even further:

- ✎ Do you what savannahs are like in Africa?
- ✎ How does grass grow?
- ✎ Why is it important to have grass in Africa?
- ✎ Which animals are grazers in Africa?
- ✎ Why do you think grazers are important?

Give students a cup for them to plant grass seeds and label their cups with their names. Fill the cup with soil, leaving at least one inch of clearance at the top. Add a thin layer of grass seeds and cover the grass seeds with a small amount of soil. Water the grass and place it in an area that receives the most sun. Within a week, students should start seeing the grass to grow. Have students observe the grasses as they grow and encourage them to make comparisons. Give out the provided sheet to students to record their observations in their journals.

You can't bring African gazelles, zebras, and wildebeest into the classroom, but you can help the students understand why these grazing animals depend on grass for food by having students "mow" their mini savannahs. When the grass is well-established after two weeks, have the students cut the grass with scissors and answer the questions below in their journals. Since grass grows from the base of the stem, not the tip, the grass is not harmed when animals graze on it, or people mow it.

Be on the lookout for the savannahs in African Journey at the zoo! Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email education@kidszoo.org to express how you used these supplemental activities!





Name: _____

Answer these questions in your journal and record any other observations.

GRASS GROWTH

- ✎ What does the seed look like? Describe color, texture, smell, and other characteristics.
- ✎ What do you think the requirement of care that grass needs to grow?
- ✎ How long do you think it will take for the seed to sprout?
- ✎ Draw a picture of the seeds in your journal.
- ✎ Record germination time, growth rate, etc.
- ✎ What does your grass look like? Describe color, texture, smell, and other characteristics.
- ✎ Compare your findings with other students.
- ✎ What were some similarities and differences in two grass?
- ✎ Choose and mark one shoot to measure from the top to bottom.
- ✎ After five days, what does your plant look like? Draw a picture.
- ✎ Over the next few days, record how much your grass grew.
- ✎ How fast is your grass growing?
- ✎ After two weeks, what does your plant look like? Draw a picture.
- ✎ Compare your findings with other students.
- ✎ What were some similarities and differences in two grass?
- ✎ Record any other observations.

After two weeks, your grass should be plentiful. Answer these questions in your journal about grazers.

GRAZERS

- ✎ What grazers can you find in Africa? Draw pictures of animals.
- ✎ Why do they depend on grass for food?
- ✎ How do they graze grass?
- ✎ Mow your mini savannahs with scissors as little or as much you like.
- ✎ Take new measurements of your trimmed grass.
- ✎ What does your newly trimmed grass look like? Draw a picture.
- ✎ Compare your findings with other students.
- ✎ What were some similarities and differences in two grass?
- ✎ Over the next few days, measure and compare the growth of your trimmed grass.
- ✎ Did your grass grow back? If so, how much?
- ✎ Why do you think the grass is not affected when you trimmed it?
- ✎ Record any other observations.