

# THIS WEEK IN THE GARDEN

## FOURTH WEEK OF SEPTEMBER



### Harvest of the Month: Cucumbers

#### Gardening 101



The first step to a growing a great garden is having great soil! But how do you know if your soil is great or leaves something to be desired? Check out this video from Mississippi State Extension to learn how to take a soil sample: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYEmHTgdmjU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYEmHTgdmjU)

Kansas State Extension also offers free soil testing. To learn more, visit [www.douglas.k-state.edu](http://www.douglas.k-state.edu)

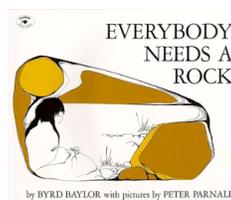
#### Activities

Visit the LPS website for more ways to include Farm 2 School in with your curriculum:  
[www.usd497.org/farm2school](http://www.usd497.org/farm2school)

- ◆ Have students compare and contrast rocks or sort them by size/color/texture. If all of the rocks were mixed up, would the students' description from the reading reflection journal activity be enough to differentiate their rock from another?
- ◆ Have students create art projects such as a collage or mobile that includes images of all the things that plants need to grow: sun, air, water, soil.
- ◆ Create a giant timeline of major events in earth history. When were the first rocks created? What about the first plants? Animals? People? Be sure to illustrate!

#### Farm 2 School Book of the Week

*Everybody Needs a Rock*  
Byrd Baylor



Want to be friends with one of the oldest things on earth? Many rocks have existed

for millions of years. Some formed in the ocean, deep underground, or on the surface of the earth as volcanoes cooled! Read this book to learn the ten rules for finding a special rock.

#### Journal Topics

Take your students to the garden with their journals and encourage them to write on one of the following topics:

- **Reading reflection:** Walk around the garden and find a rock. Write down everything you can observe: size, shape, texture, weight, color, patterns, smell and anything else!
- Imagine a world without rocks. How would it be different? Why do people need rocks? Why do plants need them?
- Touch some soil from the garden. Look at it with a hand lens. Does it remind you more of rocks or of plants? Why?

#### Eat Local

##### Homemade Ranch and Cucumber Moons

- ◆ 1-2 cloves garlic
- ◆ Salt and pepper to taste
- ◆ ¼ cups local parsley
- ◆ 2 Tablespoons local chives or green onion
- ◆ 1 cup mayonnaise
- ◆ ½ cups sour cream
- ◆ Milk or buttermilk, if desired

##### Steps

1. Mince or press garlic.
2. Chop parsley and chives very finely and add to the garlic. Add other fresh herbs as you like.
3. In a bowl combine all ingredients, tasting frequently and adjusting seasonings as needed. Chill for a couple of hours before serving. Thin with milk or buttermilk if desired.
4. Slice local cucumbers into circles (moons) and serve with homemade dip.