

Tools and Us

Description

This activity uses role playing to demonstrate safe tool use in the garden.

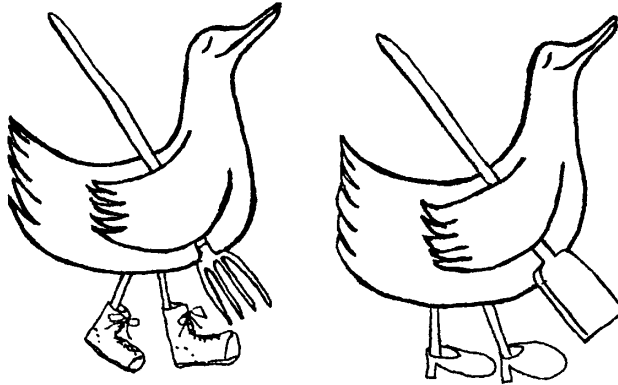
Objective

To learn proper tool use and care.

Materials

One of each kind of tool that will be used in the garden per student if possible

Tool cleaning materials: Wire brushes and a box filled with sand and motor oil

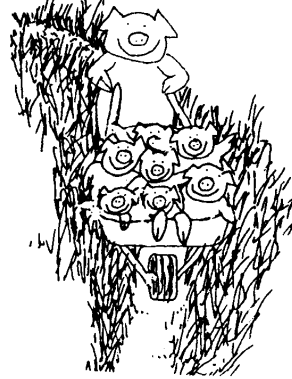


What are some examples of tools? Why do we have so many tools in our society? If we didn't have a shovel, how would we dig a hole? Throughout history tools have changed a lot. Prehistoric humans developed simple tools to aid in hunting. Some animals use tools. One species of monkey dips a piece of grass in termite and ant nests and then uses this handy tool to eat those ants and termites that attach themselves to it. Sea otters use a rock or other hard object to crack shellfish for their tasty meals. What are some examples of tools used by people or animals? (List responses on the chalkboard.) Would we be able to garden easily without tools?



1. Show students the tool storage area. Go over the names of the tools. Demonstrate proper storage. Have each student take a tool so that at least one of every tool is represented.
 2. Use role playing to teach the following safety rules for tool use and care:
 - Spading forks and shovels should be used only by those with shoes on. No sandals.
 - Walk when carrying tools.
 - Keep tools below shoulder level.
 - Take your time. Wait until other people are out of the way.
 - Do not use tools in crowded areas.
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- Always clean a tool before you put it away.
 - Never leave tools on the ground. Always stand them up or return them to the storage area.
 - Always walk with the wheelbarrow. Do not use it for rides.
3. Choose a proper tool use. Ask for a volunteer, and whisper the action to the student. Have the student role play the action. Ask the group to identify the action. Repeat with different examples. Then have the teacher role play improper use for students to identify.
 4. After role playing, demonstrate tool cleaning. Scrape the tool with a rough brush. Make sure all dirt is removed. Then dip it in a container of sand that has been soaked with about a quart of used motor oil.



Why did people develop tools? What are some examples of tools no longer used? How will you use tools in the garden?



As the group works in the garden, any student may call "freeze" if they observe an unsafe or inappropriate tool use. It may then be discussed.

