

9:00 Circle: PLANT NEEDS - SOIL Plants need soil, water, air, & sun. Read *Soil*.

PREPARING THE SOIL- finish preparing the garden soil. Work in the contents of last year's compost pile and natural soil additives such as kelp meal rather than chemical fertilizers.

Go to www.GardensAlive.com for organic materials such as kelp.

EXPERIMENT: Dishpan with dry garden soil. Lay out 5 pieces of 5" square white paper. With a coarse metal strainer, sift one cup of the soil. Sort what is left in the sifter onto the papers (insects, sand, pebbles, pieces of plants).

YOGA: **Plow Pose** (See Yoga Pose #69.)

Lesson- **HOEING THE SOIL** (P)

RAKING THE SOIL (P)

11:45 Circle: PARTS OF A PLANT - STEM The Stem carries water and food and holds the leaves and flowers up. PLANT NEED - WATER. Review all the plants needs- soil, water, air, & sun.

EXPERIMENT: Blue colored water with a white carnation. Cut the stem at an angle or pound it slightly with a hammer. The stem drinks the water like a straw, turning the flower blue.

Story Time- *Growing Vegetable Soup*

3:00 Circle: COMPOST- NATURE'S RECYCLING Read *Worms Eat Our Garbage* or *Compost!: Growing Gardens from Your Garbage* or *Compost Critters*.

See also *An Earthworm's Life* or *It Could Still Be a Worm* or *Wonderful Worms*.

EXPERIMENT: Soil- Place ½ cup of soil in a clear glass jar. Add water ½ inch from the top. Close the lid well. Shake well. Set the jar where it can be observed. The soil will settle in layers - the coarsest stones on the bottom, then sand, clay, muddy water, then pieces of plant material on top.

Lesson- **START A COMPOST PILE**

RAIN GAUGE

EARTHWORM RANCH

PARTS OF A WORM

ART: Parts of a plant collage

WORK

Earthworm Ranch- Purchase red worms from a local bait supply. Put moist (not wet) top soil in a one gallon glass jar. Add the worms to the top of the soil. Tape black construction paper around the sides of the jar. This provides darkness so the worms will burrow next to the glass. Slide the paper off to observe the worms and replace it. When the worms are under the soil, place leaves and vegetable peelings on top. (Unlike other types of worms, red worms can tolerate the warm temperature of the earthworm ranch.)