Feed the World

Feed the World aims to introduce children to the idea of plants grown for food.

Pupils will:

- Explore The Palm House, Arid House, Lily House and outside collection, comparing and contrasting the different habitats.
- Find examples of edible plants.
- Decide which parts of a plant we eat in each instance.
- Helpers and teachers are asked to be prepared to support pupils and to participate in the activities as much as possible.

Learning outcomes:

- Pupils to gain an appreciation that food plants come from different habitats around the World, Rainforest, desert, temperate etc.
- Pupils to be able to identify different parts of the plant that are eaten.
- Pupils to discover which fruits and vegetables grow outside in the UK.

Pre visit activities:

Have a discussion about your upcoming visit:
What do pupils think that a botanic garden is? Does a botanic garden just collect plants from this country or from around the World? What would they expect to see whilst they are there?

Now look at the Virtual Tour on the Botanic Garden website.
http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/Virtual%20Tour/obg-virtual-tour.html

Post visit activities:

Grow a plant
Sow some quick growing seeds for children to take home and look after. For small children try large seeds such as courgettes, pumpkins and peas. Discuss what the seeds will need to help them grow healthily.

Plant part salad
Wash a selection of vegetables that you would normally eat in a salad. Allow children to cut them up, deciding which part of the plant they are about to eat. Can they find leaves, stems, fruits, seeds and roots. Decide which is the class’s favourite taste.

Bring a plant to School day
Ask children to bring in one thing from home that they eat regularly that is made from plants. Make a display on the wall depicting a plant then match up
the food to the plant part.

**Resources:**

[http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/] lots of stories of Fairtrade producers from around the World.

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources] Oxfam’s education pages have lots of interesting lesson plans including ‘Our Food, Our World, suitable for 5-7 year olds.

[www.plantscafe.net]
The activities on this site links real world experiences to aspects of plant science from germination and plant growth, to human dependence on insect pollination for fruit production.