



Farmer's Math

A Lesson with Kindergarten Students

by Ann Carlyle

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; UFXyb|b| 'dfcj |XYgnci b| 'W|'XFYb'k |h 'f|W'a Uh Ya U|W'cddcfh b|H|Yg"B chcb`mXc'gi !
XYblg'Yb| U| Y|b'Wi bh|b| ža YUg f|b| žUbX'W`WM|b| 'XUUK \ Yb| UFXyb|b| žVi h|h YmUgc \ U| Y
Uk cbXYfZ `h'a Y"

H Y| UFXyb|b| 'dfc'YM|b'a m|_bXYf| UfHb'WUgfcga 'V| U|k |h 'Ugla d'YgYX"K YdUggYX'
Uci bXUZj UVYubžk \ |W'lg'gla |'Uf'hc 'U'ja UVYubžUbX'ja U| |bYX'k \ Uh|_bX'cZd'Ubh|hik ci 'X'
VYwa Y'H\YW|'XFYb'fYwfXYX'h Yf'h|b|_b| |'b'h Yf'ci fbUg'H\Yb'UW|'XÎ g|UfHXI' h YgYX'
Vmk fUdd|b| |h|b'UdUdYf'hc Yž_Yyd|b| |'ha c|gh|b'Ud'Ug|WVdžUbX'd'UW|b| |'h|b'Ug|bbmi
gdch|b'h YWUgfcga "

CbW'h YgYX'gdhci hXžk \ |W'hc_ 'Uci h|h fYXUhgžk YfUbgd'UbhX'h|b'gca Ygc|' UbX'
V| U|k UH'W|h|f'ck 'UbX'Ūci f|g' "fZUWUgfcga 'XcYg|ñi \ U| YUWgg'hc'gca Ygc|'ci h|Xž
h YgYX|b| 'Wb'VYdi h|b'Ud'Ub|b| 'Wd'E'

K Y'hc_ 'bch'cZh YgYX|b| 'fY| i 'U'ñ|UbX'h YW|'XFYb'fYwfXYX'|hg'dfc| fYgg|b'h Yf'ci fbUg'
K YUf'gha YUg fYX'h Y\Y| \ hcZh YgYX|b| 'k |h I b|Ū| α 'WVYg'UbX'fYwfXYX'h Ydfc| fYgg'cZ
h Ygdfci h'K YgUj YX'Ub'cf| |bU' i bgdfci hX'gYXžk \ |W'k Ug'Uci hcbY|bW|b' Yb| h žUbX'
Wa dUFYX|hic'h Y'Yb| h 'cZh YbYk 'gYX|b| "'@UH'k YXi | i d'h YgYX|b| žk Ug' YX'cZh Y'
fcchž'hc_ 'UhcU'a YUg fYa YbhcZh Yf'cchž'h YgYXžUbX'h Y'Yb| h 'cZh Yg'ccžUbX'Wa !
dUFYX|hic'h Yi bgdfci hX'gYX"K YfYd'UbhX'h YgYX|b| 'UbXžcbW'h YmUddYfYXžWi bhX'
h Y'Yj Yg'9j Ybi U'mk YWi bhX'h YV'cgga gcb'h Yd'UbhUbX'h Ybi a Vf'cZVUbg|b'UdcX'"

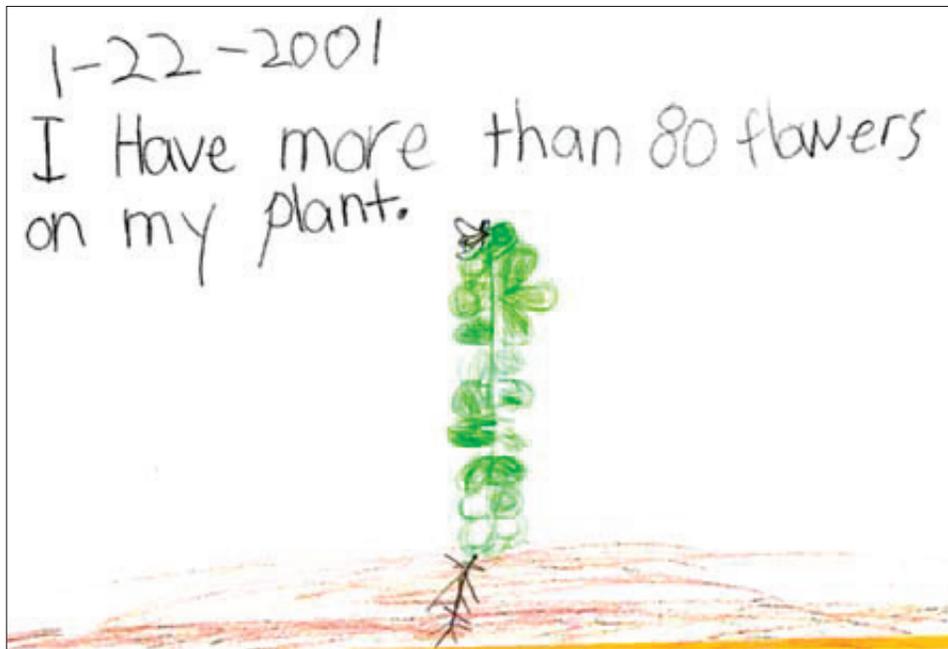


Figure 1. We counted the blossoms on the plant and the number of beans in a pod.

5 gk Yk UWYXh YgYX]b[' fck žk YfYUX'W] XfYbŃ Vcc_gk]h U[UFXyb]b['h Ya Ylc'g d!
 dcfh h Ygi XYbhŃ bXYfgUbx]b['Ux']bhFYgi" b'9j Y6i bh]b[Ńg Sunflower House fCUb'8]Y[c.'
 < UFWi fh6fUW/ '7cž%- *Ižh YWUFUMf'gUFY]bgd]fYX'c'd'UbhgYXg]b UfYMLb[i 'U'UffUb[Y!
 a Yblž\cd]b['h Uih Ynk]'' [fck]bhc U[UFXyb'gfi Wf fY'9j Ybli U`mh YWUFUMf'gUFYUVYlc'
 [c]bg]XY'h]g\ci gžUgdWU'd'UW'h UhWa YUVci h h fci [\ 'h YWfYZ 'hMbX]b['cZh YgYX!
 ']b[gVmh YW] XfYb"

AbYhGhY YbgŃ Vcc_ 'Tops and Bottoms' fCUb'8]Y[c.< UFWi fh6fUW/ '7cž%-) Iž]bgd]fYX'h Y
 WU]cb'cZUUF[fUd\ 'cZh Ygi XYbhŃ Uj cf]h'j Y[YhUV'g'

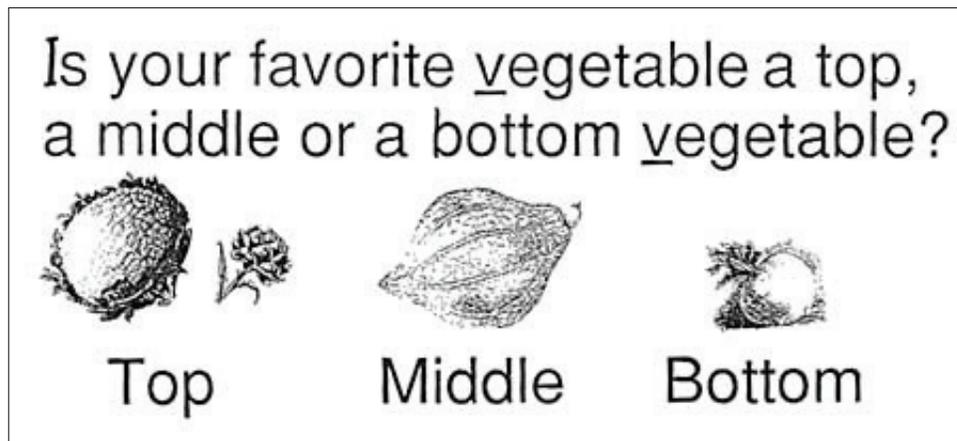


Figure 2. We graphed the students' favorite vegetables.

; fU\|b| h Yf'dfYZfYbWgk Ug'Ub'cddcfh| b|hm|c W`YMXUUVci hI Vchca I j Y| YUVYgfgj W Ug'WffchgzdcfUcYgzUbX'cb|cbgzI a |XX'Yi j Y| YUVYgfgj W Ug`Yhi WZVfcWw'zUbX'WYfniz UbX'I hcdI j Y| YUVYgfgj W Ug'WfbL"

5ZM'ci f'Yi dYf|YbWk |h h'YZJ UVYubzk Yd'UbhX'g| bUck Yf'gYXgUbX'a YUg| fYX'h YgY XfUa UjWd'Ublg'Ugh Ym| fyk "5ZM'Uk \ |Yzk YZci bX'h YI b|U| = WYVghc VYhcc'ga U`Zcf` a YUg| f|b| zgc k Y|bgHUXi gYX'Dcdg|WYgh|Wg'K YWhUgf|d'cZUX|b|`a UW|bYHdYh YgUa Y \Y| \hcZh Ygi bUck Yfzd'UMX'hcb'U\cf|ncbH'g| fZUMzUbX'd'UMX'Dcdg|WYgh|Wg'YbX|h'!YbX' Ucb|`h YdUdYf'hUdY"5`gczk Yd|WYX'U'Uf| Ygi bUck Yf`YUZubX'a YUg| fYX'\ck`a UbmWVYg'Uhi Ufci bX'h YdYf|a YMF"H'Yb k YWi bhX'\ck`a UbmWVYg'U`YX'h YUFYUcZh Y`YUZci h|bY"

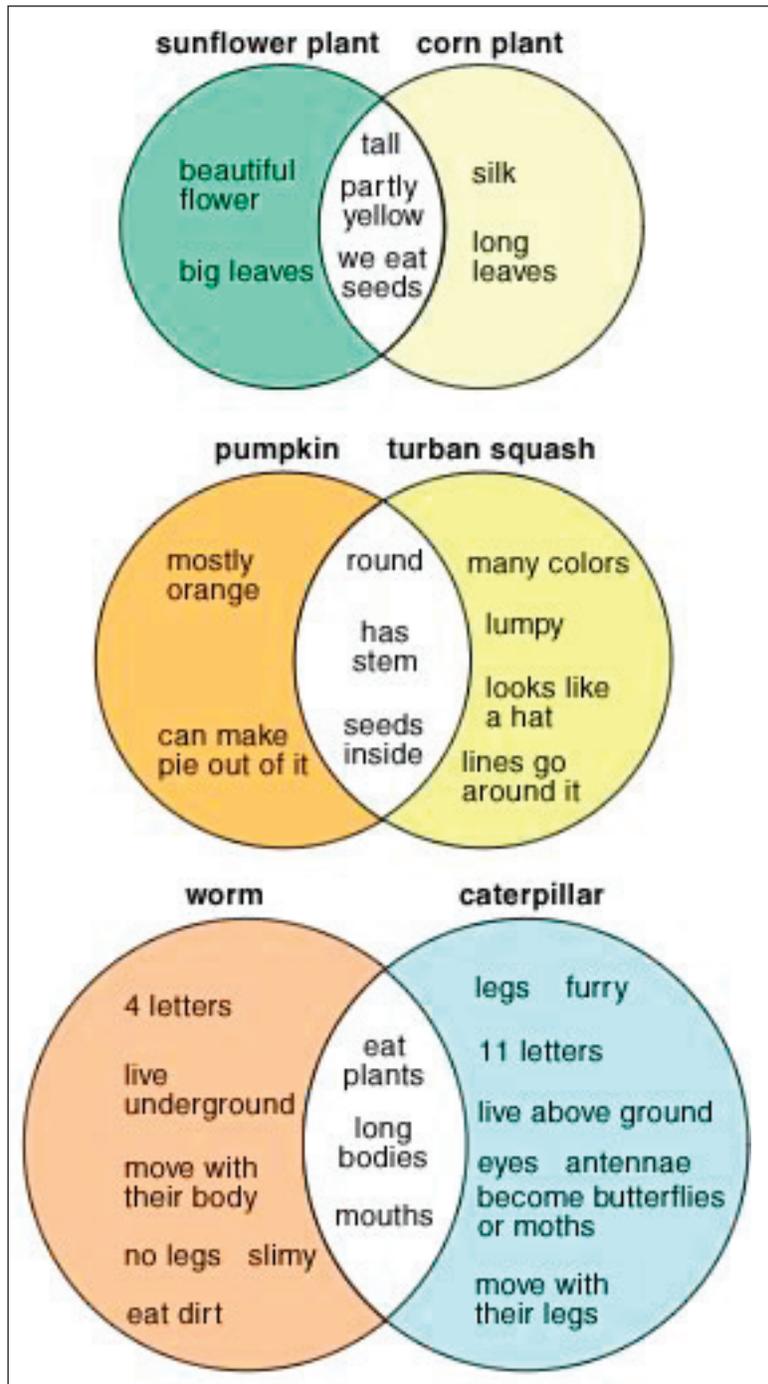


Figure 3. We compared plants and garden likenesses and differences.

I gbl Uglā d`YgdccbZ `Zca UW`Wjcb`cZgYYXgfUWa a YWU`dUWYhcZ%!VMb`gci d`
k cf_gk Y``\YFžk Ya UXYUVF`[fUd`cZhYj U]ci g_]bXgcZVMbg"K YWa dUFYXcbYgdccb`
glā d`Yhc`Ubch\Yf`glā d`Yhc`gY\ck`X|ZZfYbhc f`gla]`U`h`Ymk`YF`

K YWa dUFYX`d`Ublg`UbX[UFXyb`Ub]a UgZcf``_ YbYggYg`UbXX|ZZfYbWg`UbXfYwfXX`ci f`
h]b_]b[`cb`UWUgg`JYbb`X]U`fUa`"

K Y`_`Yhc`h]b_`cZci f`WUgg`cca`Ug`UZfa`žk`\YFyk`Y[fck`d`Ublg`UbX`]XUg`"Ci f`W`XfYb`UFY`
[fck`]b[`Ugk`Y`žUbX`ci f`[UFXyb]b[`Yl`dYf]YbW`\Ydglhc`bi`fhi`fYh`Yf[fck`h`"