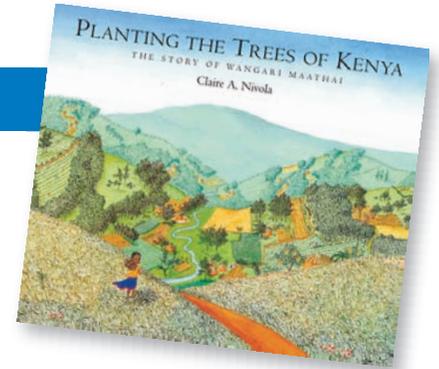


Planting the Trees of Kenya

The Story of Wangari Maathai



A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Heroic Women, Perseverance, Environment, Education

Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: A Kenyan woman fights to save her country, one tree at a time.

Author and Illustrator:
Claire A. Nivola



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Do the children know how important trees are for the planet? Have them brainstorm all the things trees give us (food, lumber, oxygen, shade, etc.). Locate Kenya on a map or globe so kids know the setting of the story.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

WANGARI'S TREES (AGES 4-6 YEARS)

Materials: paper, crayons or markers, sponge, green paint, clothespins (optional)

Have kids draw tree trunks on a piece of paper. Cut up a sponge to dip in green paint. Use a clothespin to help kids hold onto the sponge. Dip the sponge in paint and dab on the paper to make leaves for the trees.

COMMUNITY GARDEN (AGES 4-12 YEARS)

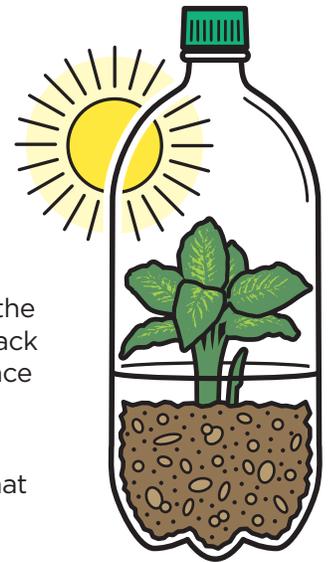
Materials: seeds and/or plants, gardening supplies

Start a community garden project at your center. Kids can plant, water and take care of seeds/plants. Have them record what they see each week. Use pots if planting space is limited. Try to grow a few fruits or vegetables so kids can enjoy snacks fresh from the garden!

GARDEN IN A BOTTLE (AGES 9-12 YEARS)

Materials: 2 liter bottle, dirt, seeds

1. Clean out a 2 liter bottle and remove the label. Cut the bottom off and fill it with dirt.
2. Plant some seeds and sprinkle with water. Put the top of the soda bottle back onto the bottom and place in a sunny spot.
3. Help children track the progress of the plants that grow in your bottle.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Seeds of Change, Jen Cullerton Johnson (2010), *All the Water in the World*, George Ella Lyon (2011), *Giving Thanks*, Chief Jake Swamp (1995).

TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

www.rif.org/kids



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