

## Project

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Learners will be able to sow root vegetable seeds outside

and identify various types of root vegetable crops. Root vegetables are considered cold-season crops because they can withstand cool temperatures and germinate in cooler soils. Use the individual worksheets for cultivation tips. Choose a variety of roots so that learners can compare them later in a taste test.

Radishes may be a good choice because they demonstrate how different plants can taste even though they are the same species. Examples of radishes to try are daikon radish, black radish, watermelon radish and icicle radish.

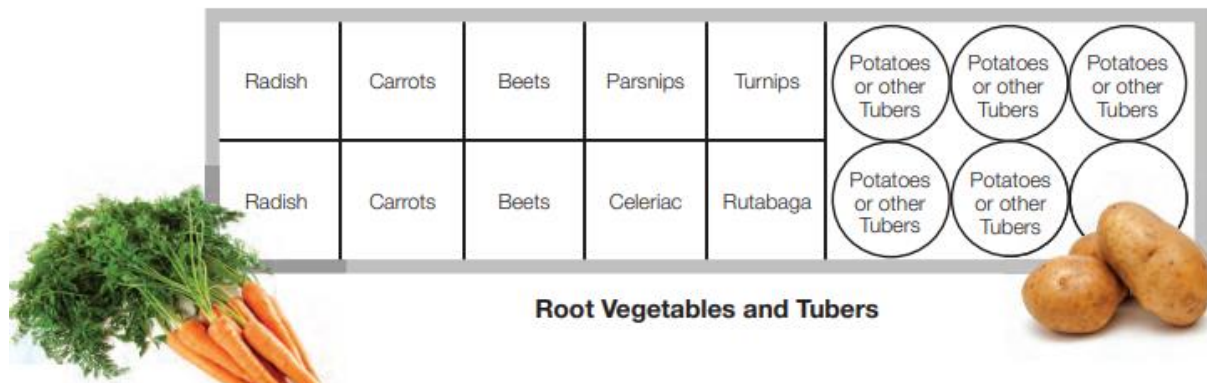
### Material:

String to lay out squares or plots 1 dozen wooden stakes to lay out plots Garden Journals Pencils 6-10 varieties of root vegetable seed packages, such as radishes, carrots, parsnips, turnips, rutabagas Watering Cans Trowels Signs for various seeds.

### Preparation:

Prepare the beds ahead of time if you are working with younger learners and/or are short on time. The soil must be soft and easy to work with. Water the soil the day before planting. • Place the stakes in 1½ foot intervals around the plot. You will be making 1½ foot squares. • Tie the string to the stakes so that the plot is divided in half lengthwise, and then into 1½

foot squares. • Place one seed packet in the middle of each square. Review how to plant seeds using information from the back of the seed packet; often learners plant seeds too close together or too deep. Make sure to go over these issues with the learners before planting.



### Activity:

Assign one or two learners to each square and demonstrate how to broadcast seeds evenly within their square. For small seeds (e.g. carrots) have them pat the dirt with their fingers and tamp down lightly. For larger seeds (e.g. beets) have them press each seed down ¼" with their fingers. 2. Water each square with a watering can that has a gentle spray. 3. If there is not enough space for the entire class to plant at once, have learners take turns planting. Other students can use one of these prompts to work in their journals: • What are the instructions for planting a seed? • How would you create a seed package including the spacing and planting time • Draw a picture of the kind of seed you planted. • Draw a picture of how you think the garden will look later in the summer. • Draw your favorite vegetable that we have planted today. 4. After the seedlings have 1 or 2 sets of true leaves, thin them.