

Sweet Potatoes

Science Lesson Plan

Objectives: To make valid observations of plants and their parts. To measure length, width, and circumference with estimation and accurate measurement techniques. To communicate findings clearly.

Materials Provided: Lesson plan activity
SWEET “P” I.D. record sheet master

Materials Needed: One sweet potato per student
Rulers
Measuring tapes
Balance scales
Small labeling stickers

Activity: SWEET “P” I.D.

Allow each student to select a sweet potato from a box. Instruct students to observe their sweet potato carefully and note any special attributes it may have. Student should estimate the length, width and circumference of the sweet potatoes and record their estimates. They should follow up by selecting the appropriate measuring tools and determining accurate measurement to go along with each estimate. They should then compare their estimates with the accurate measurements obtained and report their findings to the class. All data should be recorded on the SWEET “P” I.D. record sheet provided.

The assignment may include a formal written comparison, an oral presentation, or both. After the observation activity concludes, have students place a small sticker with their initials on the bottom of their sweet potato. Return all sweet potatoes to the box and mix them up. Challenge students to correctly identify their sweet potato as it is held up before the class for examination. If the students are having a difficult time identifying their sweet potato, the teacher can measure and weigh the sweet potatoes and offer hints.

Note: If this activity is done first, the same sweet potatoes can be used for the Social Studies “Sweet Potato Pal” activity.

Sweet "P" I.D.

Data Record Sheet

Notes on appearance
Drawing

Measurements

	Estimation	Accurate Measurement	Comments
Mass			
Length			
Width			
Circumference			

Report

1. How did your estimations compare to the accurate measurements?
2. How does the size of your sweet potato compare to others in your class?
3. What else would you like to know about sweet potatoes based on your findings today? How would you go about finding the information you seek?