

## **Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum**

### **Planting your own flowers (Zagreb Botanical Gardens, Croatia)**

*20 minutes prep, 30 minutes of class time*

This unit is meant to build upon the child's knowledge of seasons, plants and how plants grow from seeds. The curriculum is designed to give the children as much hands-on connection to the material (pot, dirt, seeds) as possible. The students will tour Croatia in spring, seeing the beaches, small towns and flowers, before decorating their own flower pots with stickers and planting some flowers of their own.



#### **Required Materials:**

1. Small flower pots (1 per student). We bought ours on amazon for about \$.80 each. As a cheaper alternative, we also tried using paper cups.
2. Sets of stickers, enough for 4-5 per child. We used flower stickers bought bulk.
3. Potting soil, 1 lb. per 20 students.
4. Seeds: We chose a combination of nasturtium, marigolds and purple cone flowers. These are all varieties that grow easily in containers. Enough seeds for 3 per student.
5. Small plastic ziplock bags.

**Preparation:** Separate materials out into the amounts needed for your activity groups/tables. The only prep work for this curriculum is to portion out the dirt into the ziplock bags so that each child can have the appropriate amount of dirt. If you are doing this outside and can make a mess, feel free to skip the portioning and bags and just have the students get their own dirt from the bag of potting soil at the appropriate time.

#### **Lesson Plan:**

1. Begin by asking the children what country we live in, and then help them locate that country on a map or globe. Then show them where Croatia is on a map/globe. (2 mins)
2. Use the powerpoint or printed images to take the children on a tour of Croatia, emphasizing the natural beauty and historical landscape. (see power point for more detailed notes on images) (5 mins)
  - a. First half of the powerpoint highlights the beaches, and historic Mediterranean towns of Croatia.
  - b. Second half of the powerpoint provides an opportunity to talk about the spring and flowers blooming, with a series of pictures of flowers in Croatia, and some pictures of the Zagreb Botanical Gardens.
3. Explain the activity to the class (10 mins):
  - a. First, they are going to decorate their pots with the stickers that are at each table.
  - b. Next, they will empty their bagged dirt inside their pot, and tamp it down gently.
  - c. Lastly, they will select three seeds and tamp them down into their pots. Seeds should be planted about an inch deep, then covered with soil afterwards. Plants should be watered when top 1.5 inches of soil is dry, or about every other day.