



Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden (Hands-On Family)

By Renata Brown

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A refreshing source of ideas to help your children learn to grow their own patch of earth, *Gardening Lab for Kids* encourages children to get outside and enjoy nature. This fun and creative book features 52 plant-related activities set into weekly lessons, beginning with learning to read maps to find your heat zone, moving through seeds, soil, composting, and then creating garden art and appreciating your natural surroundings. Author **Renata Fossen Brown** guides your family through fun opportunities learning about botany, ecology, the seasons, food, patience, insects, eating, and cooking. The labs can be used as singular projects or to build up to a year of hands-on outdoor experiences. The lessons in this book are open-ended to be explored over and over - with different results each time! *Garden Lab for Kids* is the perfect book for creative families, friends, and community groups and works as lesson plans for both experienced and new gardeners. Children of all ages and experience levels can be guided by adults and will enjoy these engaging exercises. So, slip on your muddy clothes, and get out and grow!

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Lab

Toads (and their close relatives, frogs) are very important for the ecosystem. Both animals' main diet consists of insects, many of which are pests to food crops, such as aphids or slugs. Wouldn't it be great to attract them to your yard to keep an eye on your garden?

Materials

- 10" (25 cm) clay pot
- Paints
- Paint brushes
- Clear polyurethane
- Sealer
- Trowel



Fig. 1: Decorate the pot, let dry, add sealer, and let dry.

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1. Paint some fun designs on the clay pot and let it dry. Apply the sealer and let dry overnight. (Fig. 1)2. Find a shady, out-of-the-way location in your garden for your toad abode. Using the trowel, dig a slight depression in the soil so that when you lay the pot on its side, it won't roll around. (Fig. 2)3. Lay the pot on its side in the depression you dug. Fill the area around the pot with soil so that the pot will stay in place.



Fig. 2: Dig a small area for the pot.

DIG DEEPER! If you aren't seeing frogs or toads in your neighborhood when there should be some around, there could be something wrong. Lawn chemicals, pollution, or acid rain could be some of the reasons. Both frogs and toads are amphibians, and are key indicators of a healthy environment. Why? Because they breathe and absorb water through their skin! If the environment is polluted, they ingest those pollutants, which can kill them or prevent them from reproducing. Healthy toads, Healthy environment.

Review

"This fun collection of DIY activities – or gardening 'experiments,' as the author calls them – ranges from building rain barrels and gardening tool boxes to making a desert terrarium or growing a tropical porch container. My kids were immediately drawn to the projects in this book; my daughter has big plans for the fairy garden, and my son wants to make a sprinkler. And we're all fans of the mini pizza garden that helps us grow our own tomatoes, peppers, onions, basil and oregano." - *CoolMomPicks.com*

'beautifully presented, and the ideas are lovely'

About the Author

As Associate Director of Education, Renata Fossen Brown (Cleveland, OH) oversees the thousands of school children visiting Cleveland Botanical Garden yearly, as well as the development and implementation of teacher professional development workshops. She assisted in the planning and facilitating of a 10-day teacher workshop that traveled to Costa Rica to study biodiversity. Brown is involved in the writing of interpretation and exhibit graphics at the Garden and served as president of the Cleveland Regional Council of Science Teachers. Brown holds a B.A. in Biology from the University of Toledo and an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from Bradley University, in Peoria, Illinois. She is certified to teach grades 7-12 science, and has been active in informal science education since 1993. As Assistant Curator of Education at the Toledo Zoo, Brown was responsible for all educational programs occurring on Zoo grounds, as well as researching and writing for their Emmy award winning television show, "Zoo Today." Creating and implementing their very first Earth Day Celebration is a task of which she is particularly proud. She continued her education role, while adding volunteer coordinator duties while working at Luthy Botanical

Garden in Peoria, Illinois. A native Clevelander, Renata Fossen Brown gladly returned home in 2004 after a 15 year absence. She was named the Garden's Clara DeMallie Sherwin Chair in Education in December 2004. She is usually surrounded in her yard by her three dogs and prefers natives and perennials over annuals any day. She is particularly in love with purple coneflower.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Bennett:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information presently can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even restricted. What people must be consider if those information which is inside former life are challenging be find than now is taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you get it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden (Hands-On Family) as the daily resource information.

Harriet White:

The reason why? Because this Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden (Hands-On Family) is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will surprise you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking method. So , still want to delay having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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