

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTORY MATERIALS

Overview	i
Standards Alignment Matrix	iv
National Standards Listing	v
Learning Style Symbols Explanation	ix
The Science Behind the EarthBox	x

WATER

1. Introduction to the Water Cycle	3
2. The Water Cycle: Evaporation	6
3. The Water Cycle: Condensation	8
4. The Water Cycle: Precipitation	11
5. The Water Cycle: Groundwater Movement	14
6. The Water Cycle: Runoff and Erosion	17
7. The Water Cycle: Transpiration	20
8. The Effect of Watering Frequency on Plant Growth	23

LIGHT

1. The Importance of Light to Plants	29
2. The Effect of Light on Seed Germination	32
3. The Effect of Light Direction on Plant Growth	35
4. The Effect of Light Intensity on Plant Growth	38
5. The Effect of Light Duration on Plant Growth	42

SOIL

1. Characteristics of Different Soils	47
2. Root Growth in Different Types of Soil	50
3. Root Growth in Different Types of Soil	53
4. The Effect of Soil pH on Plant Growth	56

PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS

1. Identifying the Parts of a Plant	63
2. The Diversity of Leaves: Forms, Arrangements, and Margins	66
3. Mechanisms of Seed Dispersal	68
4. Plant Life Cycles: Annuals, Biennials, and Perennials	71
5. Regional Plant Hardiness Ratings	73
6. The Effect of Gravity on Root and Stem Growth	76
7. The Effect of Fertilizer on Plant Growth (Plant Nutrition)	79

8. The Effect of Humidity on Plant Growth	82
9. Biological Control of Pests	86
10. Plant Adaptations for Pollination	88
11. Plant Products	91
12. Culinary Herbs	94
13. Medicinal Uses of Plants	97

NUTRITION

1. Food Quality Analysis	103
2. Nutritional Value of Fruits and Vegetables	106
3. Determining Your Recommended Fruit and Vegetable Intake	109
4. Health Benefits of Vitamins and Minerals	112
5. Selecting a Nutritious Diet of Fruits and Vegetables	116

Blank Watering Schedule	119
Glossary of Terms	121

Appendix – Overhead Transparencies

1. Introduction to the Water Cycle	127
2. The Water Cycle: Condensation	
3. The Water Cycle: Precipitation	
4. The Importance of Light to Plants (a)	
5. The Importance of Light to Plants (b)	
6. The Effect of Light Direction on Plant Growth	
7. Identifying the Parts of a Plant (a)	
8. Identifying the Parts of a Plant (b)	
9. The Diversity of Leaves (a)	
10. The Diversity of Leaves (b)	
11. The Diversity of Leaves (c)	
12. Mechanisms of Seed Dispersal	
13. Plant Life Cycles: Annuals, Biennials, Perennials	
14. Medicinal Uses of Plants	
15. Plant Products	
16. Recommended Fruit and Vegetable Intake	
17. Selecting a Nutritious Diet	