

Garden

August 2026

In the Garden

Our bean plants will start producing this month, so the children will be happy to add beans to the brassicas, lettuce, New Zealand spinach & occasional tomatoes that they have been munching on. We'll also harvest blackberries, raspberries and the last of our mints, blueberries & carrots, and we will be watching the pumpkins planted by Preschool A as they swell, as well as watermelons in one of our cold frame greenhouses. It will be time to begin working on our fall/winter garden, so we will work on empty spots in the garden beds and plant lettuce, chard & brassicas from seed. Our sunflowers will be blooming during the month, and we'll enjoy zinnias, dahlias, cosmos & asters in bloom.

In the classroom

August 4-7 — Alpine/Tundra Habitats

Activities

- Books: What Polar Animals Eat, How Polar Animals Hide
- View & discuss alpine & polar animal photos
- Investigate & describe saltwater vs fresh water ice
- Water bins with ice & various objects
- Identify cut-outs of arctic & polar animals from a larger pool of animals

Vocabulary

- Tundra, alpine, polar
- Polar bear, penguin, arctic hare, arctic fox, narwhal, musk ox, snow leopard, caribou, walrus
- Cold
- Ice, glacier, snow

Objectives

- State differences between arctic & alpine regions
- Identify animals that live in arctic or alpine areas
- Provide examples of traits of animals that live in alpine & arctic regions



August 11-14 – Reptiles, Part I: iguana, chameleon & general lizards

Activities

- Discuss what reptiles are, their traits & needs & where they live
- Observe photos of iguanas, chameleons & general lizards
- Identify reptile from other animals
- Investigate reptile specimen jars
- Discuss similarities & differences among general lizards, iguanas & chameleons
- Read The Mixed Up Chameleon
- Lizard song with Twos & Tods

Vocabulary

- Lizard
- Iguana
- Chameleon
- Reptile
- Skin
- Shed
- Egg

Objectives

- Identify reptiles in a mix of animal photos
- Relate traits of reptiles
- Provide examples of animals that are reptiles

August 19-21 – Summer Tea Party

This week we will have a final tea party of the summer. We'll drink tea brewed from a mix of herbs gathered this summer (strawberry, blackberry, raspberry, lemon balm & spearmint) and we'll enjoy some vegetables from the gardens. We'll also have some time to play in the grass (magnetic fishing, puzzles, building/pretending with sticks, games of chase). And there will be scat specimen jars & animal tracks to observe.

As there will be no garden class on the 18th, the Annex will have tea the following week when we finish up our reptile discussion.

Gladiolus by the swing yard—



August 25-28—Reptiles, Part II: snakes, crocodiles & turtles

Activities

- Review what a reptile is
- Discuss snakes, crocodilians, turtles & tortoises, as well as similarities between them and the reptiles studied the previous week
- Color & paste sea turtle craft
- Investigate reptile specimen jars

Vocabulary

- Snake
- Turtle/tortoise
- Crocodile/alligator
- Reptile

Objectives

- State differences between various reptiles
- Participate in a sea turtle craft or reptile coloring pages
- Identify toy reptiles in a group of various toy animals

