



Native American Gardening:

Stories, Projects and Recipes
for Families



IN A NUTSHELL

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SUBJECTS

Fine Arts

Health

Language Arts

Science

Social Studies

This book is designed to serve as an introduction to the gardening practices of Native American civilizations by means of stories, traditions and actual practice in growing a garden. The information given covers everything from preparing soil and identifying harmful weeds to legends and teachings about the origins of plants and the customs surrounding gardens in different cultures. Activities include those associated with actual gardening skills (such as keeping a journal or composting) as well as native recipes, craft items and games involving native plants, and songs.

The book also contains a pronunciation key for Native American words, a glossary and an index. The sections called “Bridges: From Legends to Life” draw connections between the stories and the activities. Illustrations include maps, drawings and black and white photographs.

Grade Level

K-adult

Length

158 pages

Date Published

1996

THE BOTTOM
LINE

“Excellent resource for information
about Native Americans and flora in North America.”

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Primary sources are used and referenced throughout. Material continuously challenges teacher and learner to consider different perspectives and to engage in inquiry.	Deals only with traditional culture; says little about Native Americans today.
	Depth	Focuses on many concepts in natural and social sciences (in particular plant science and ecology) and at a variety of scales.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Stimulates both critical and creative thinking. Encourages students to compare, assess, and create own values.	
	Action Orientation	Thrust of curriculum is to instill a sense of personal connection to and responsibility toward nature and people.	
	Instructional Soundness	Includes section on sensitivity to different learning styles. Provides a variety of teaching techniques and settings. Activities are learner-centered and interdisciplinary. Clearly states goals for each activity.	Information needs to be streamlined to be age appropriate for younger children.
Usability	Material is well-indexed and well-organized by topic, subject and culture. There is a clear format with logical sequencing and helpful symbols. Provides additional resources.	Needs to be more specific about age range for each activity. Subject index misleading as some topics listed are only minimally addressed.	

“This is the kind of book that makes me want to take a ten-year sabbatical just to explore!”

“A sense of personal place in the environment can be fostered with these materials.”