

The background of the slide is a photograph of two people, likely teachers or students, in a garden. They are both wearing hooded jackets (one red, one grey) and are looking down at a notebook held by the person in the red jacket. The garden is filled with various green plants and flowers. The text is overlaid on this image.

citysprouts
Public school gardens for teaching and learning

**Teacher Forum
Spring Session 5:**

Garden Organisms

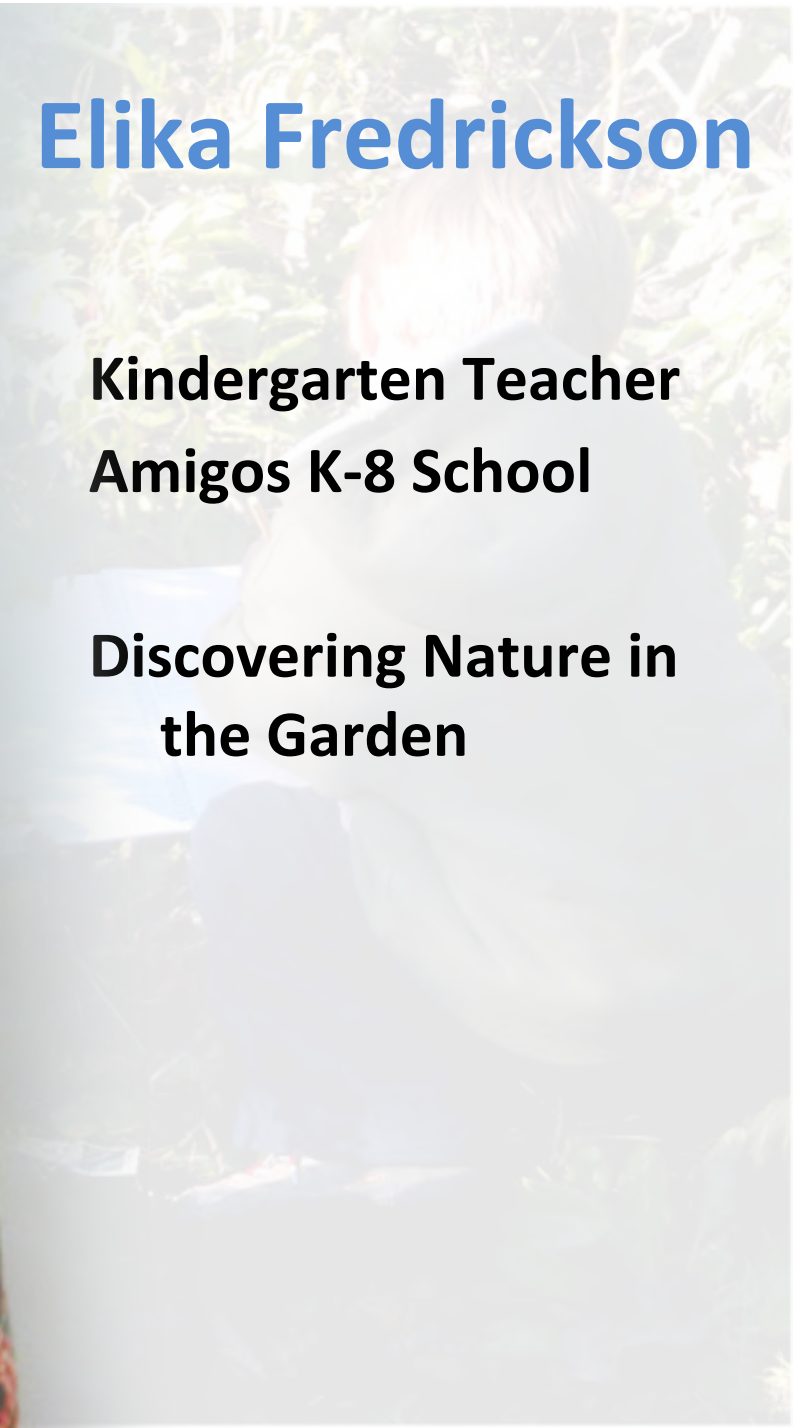
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Erika Fredrickson

**Kindergarten Teacher
Amigos K-8 School**

**Discovering Nature in
the Garden**



Science Connection: Discovering Nature

- We use the garden in the fall and again in the spring.
- Weekly lessons:
 - colors in the garden,
 - planting and growing plants
 - measuring and recording plant growth
 - apple cider pressing



Apple Cider Pressing!

- The students work in groups of 5 and rotate through 3 different stations
 - washing the apples
 - cutting the apples
 - pressing the apples
- Afterwards, we enjoy our delicious cider with friends and family!



Becoming Scientists

A photograph of two children sitting on the ground in a garden. One child, wearing a red jacket, is holding a notebook and looking at it. The other child, wearing a blue jacket, is looking at the notebook. They are surrounded by green plants and grass. The image is semi-transparent, allowing text to be overlaid.

•Students work as partners, groups and independently to explore garden and develop scientific and inquiry skills in line with our Common Core math/science and ELA standards including:

- Asking questions and defining problems
- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Using mathematics and computational thinking

Luisa Quintanilla

2nd-Grade Teacher

Amigos K-8 School

Living Things in the Soil





Science Connection: Living Organisms

- Observe and draw the plants and soil in a specific bed
 - Observe and explore compost bin
- Observe seeds planted in different types of soil in the garden
 - Observe the plan of the garden and think about the needs of plants

Preparation

- **Role of Garden Coordinator:**
 - Met to plan the activities
 - Organized stations
 - Guided students at the stations

Materials:

- recording sheets
 - Clipboards
 - magnifying glasses
 - pencils and colored pencils



Outcomes

Reaction of the students:

- Going to the garden is exciting and we always learn something new
- Students were always excited about working in the garden to engage in observing living things in its habitat

The value of using the garden vs. classroom:

- It contextualizes that science is part of our surroundings
- Students really understand that plants need soil to grow
- Composting is valuable they can see that we use in the garden
- See the decomposition of the plants and living organisms in their habitat

Recommendation

Teachers should do a mini-lesson about how scientists draw scientific illustrations using color pencils before going to the garden.

