

# CITIZENSHIP

## Teacher's Guide: GRADE 7 - Lesson 2

### My Vertical Garden

#### Competency (according to TLS), Element and Performance Criteria

- **Element 4:** Solve problem with empathy and integrity to address personal, societal and environmental issues.
- **Performance Criteria 1:**
  - Discuss possible examples of empathetic and integrity-driven solutions to environmental issues.
- **Performance Criteria 2:**
  - Design and implement simple projects addressing environmental concerns with consideration of community impact.

#### Purpose of activity

This activity will enable the students to get engaged in a hands-on activity where they will learn how to recycle and repurpose plastic containers to create a vertical garden, promoting environmental responsibility and creativity.

#### Learning Outcomes – (Part 1 & 2)

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Understand the importance of recycling in addressing environmental issues
- Discuss possible ways of recycling plastic waste
- Create a vertical garden with plastic cups

#### Resources and Materials for part 1 of the activity

- Empty plastic containers (e.g., empty yoghurt cups, empty plastic cups, etc.)
- Scissors (with supervision)
- String or twine
- Soil
- Seeds or small plants (preferably decorative or aromatic plants)
- Paints and markers for decoration
- Small nails or hooks for hanging

#### Teaching trajectories/ Implementation guidelines

*It is recommended to provide students enough time for discussion and sharing. This activity may be extended over 2 or more periods.*

### Step 1: Introduction

- Discuss the importance of recycling and how plastic waste impacts the environment.
- Explain the concept of a vertical garden and its benefits, such as saving space and reusing materials.

### Step 2: Preparing and Decorating the Containers:

- Have students clean and dry their plastic containers.
- Let students use paints and markers to decorate their containers. Encourage them to be creative and think about how their designs can reflect the natural beauty or specific natural features of Mauritius.

### Step 3: Planting

- Fill the containers with soil and plant seeds or small plants.
- Discuss the types of plants that are suitable for vertical gardens and why native plants are a good choice

### Step 4: Assembling the Vertical Garden:

- Show students how to tie string or twine around the containers to create hanging planters.
- Help them hang their planters on a wall or fence using small nails or hooks. Arrange the containers in a vertical pattern to create the garden.

### Step 5: Caring for the Garden:

- Discuss how to care for the plants, including watering and sunlight needs.
- Emphasise the responsibility of maintaining the garden and the positive impact it has on the environment.

### Assessment:

- Level of participation in class discussions
- Level of creativity
- Ability to show respect and empathy while working collaboratively
- Appropriateness of communication skills

### Possible Extension Activity:

Conclude with a reflection of the session, where students share their thoughts on recycling and how they can continue to make environmentally responsible decisions in their daily lives. The possibility of extending similar practices at home should be encouraged.

Moreover, explain to your students that they need to take care of the vertical garden they have created. They will have to water the plants, observe their growth and address the possible challenges in keeping their vertical garden healthy. At regular intervals during the semester, have students talk about what they learned about plant growth, the challenges they faced, and how they overcame them.