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Children's Bilingual Picture Books

Activity Guide #2

The Riches of Rangoberra / Las riquezas de Rangoberra

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Subjects
Science
Art

Brief Description
In this science and art activity, children work individually or in groups to learn about growing herbs and using them in creative art projects.

Objectives
- Incorporate the many uses of herbs into everyday products.
- Growing herb plants for science units on vegetation.
- Use of plants in art

Key Words
Herbs, seeds, plant cuttings, collage, leaf rubbings

Grade Level(s)
K-5

Materials Needed
Various herbs, seeds and/or cuttings
Containers for planting herbs
Art supplies—Wax paper, pencil, art paper, crayons

Activities
Many herbs can be easily grown in a light garden or windowsill, started from seeds, cuttings, or plants. Local nurseries, friends' gardens, and catalogs are good sources for herb seeds and plants.

- **...from seeds**
  Plant herb seeds in the same soil-less potting mix you use for other indoor plants, or plant them in a mixture of 1/3 sand, 1/3 peat moss, and 1/3 soil. Most herb seeds are small, and should be planted no more than 1/4" deep in moist soil or sprinkled on the top of soil and covered lightly with potting mix. You can have children mix tiny seeds with a small amount of sand to make them easier to sprinkle over the soil. Mist the soil, and cover containers with plastic to keep seeds moist until they germinate. To give herb plants room to grow to maturity, thin seedlings to one per 4" container or 2 plants per 6" container.

- **...from cuttings**
  Some herbs are quicker and easier to start from cuttings than from seeds. To take cuttings, snip healthy stems 34 inches from the growing tip. Remove leaves from the lower half of the cutting, and plant the cutting in a soil-less mix. Water gently and cover the container with a plastic bag until new top growth appears.
- **...from plants**
  Many herbs can be purchased from nurseries as young plants, or dug, particularly in the spring, from the new shoots emerging from mature plants outdoors.
- Color the picture provided at the coloring page link**.**
- Use seeds and plant leaves to create collages.
- Leaf rubbings—Place leaves and/or seeds of herbs between a sheet of wax paper and a sheet of art paper. Use a pencil to gently rub over the top of the wax paper to make outlines and veins of herbs on the art paper. Color can be added to decorate. Rubbings can be used for greeting cards, postcards or bookmarks.

Activity Guide Source
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