

THE **EDIBLE**
SCHOOLYARD
PROJECT

**INTERVIEW A COMMUNITY
FOOD MEMBER**

Summary: One way to understand farming and food systems is by looking close to home, in our local communities. In this lesson, students will investigate how individuals near them grow food and care for the land. They will interview a community member who grows food to learn about their experiences and food knowledge.

Time: 15-30 Minutes

Teacher Notes:

This lesson was developed for Edible Schoolyard Project's [Understanding Organic](#) curriculum and is part of the extension inquiries.



INTERVIEW A COMMUNITY FOOD MEMBER

READ: Identify someone you know that has a relationship with growing food. This could be someone that works at a community garden, on a farm, or with plants. It can also be someone that actively keeps a personal garden or someone you know that loves plants. If you don't know anyone directly, consider looking up organizations in your community and asking someone who works there if you can interview them.

DO: Prepare your questions to interview the person that you chose. Here are some example questions you might include:

- What is your relationship with growing food? How did you come into this work?
- Why do you garden?
- What do you do with the food that you grow?
- How do you care for the plants?
- How do you care for the soil?
- Do you use any organic or sustainable gardening practices? If so, which ones and why are they important to you?

Now write at least two questions of your own. Here are some tips for making up your own questions:

- Aim for open-ended questions as opposed to “yes/no” questions. For example: “What drew you to working with plants?”, as opposed to “Do you like working with plants?”
- Follow your genuine curiosity—why did you choose to interview this person? What made you curious to learn more about them? It feels good to know when someone is genuinely interested in your work and your enthusiasm and curiosity may help your interviewee open up!

Write at least two questions of your own:

1.

2.

Once you've prepared your questions, sit down with your interviewee or call them. Ask them your questions, and don't be afraid to go “off-script” if something catches your interest as you talk.



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WRITE OR RECORD: Document the responses from the person you are interviewing. Write a paragraph or create a voice memo, using our [Sharing What You Made](#) resource. Your written response or voice memo should include the following:

- The name of the person that you chose, and their relationship to food in your community
- Why you chose to interview this person
- At least three things that you learned from your conversation.
- At least two things you are still curious about.
- A question that you still have.