



## Native Seeds/SEARCH Seed Diaries: Seed Expressions Curriculum

### **Appropriate Topics of Study:**

Social Studies, Visual Arts, Language Arts, History, Reading Comprehension

### **Learning Objectives:**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the botanical classification, history, and cultural importance of the Southwestern native crop varieties.

Students will create their own artistic expression that represents the Seed Diary of a chosen seed variety.

Students will present their seed diary and explain how their artistic expression reflects the story of the seed variety. Students can also discuss and analyze how the other student's artistic expressions represent the Seed Diary and generate suggestions to improve the work.

### **Instructions:**

Instruct students to read the Seed Diaries found on the Native Seeds/SEARCH website ([www.nativeseeds.org/learn/seed-diaries](http://www.nativeseeds.org/learn/seed-diaries)). Depending upon grade level students can conduct additional research with the supplemental readings listed or via other sources.

Instruct students to create an artistic expression of a Seed Diary of their choosing, highlighting its botanical features, historical origins, cultural significance, culinary and nutritional qualities, and/or cultivation techniques. Artistic expressions created by other students on the website can be used as inspiration. The media for which the expression is created can and should be diverse. Some creations may also wish to incorporate the seeds themselves or parts of the plant that grows from the seed. If you have a school garden on campus, teachers may request seeds via the Native Seeds/SEARCH Community Seed Grant Program (details at [www.nativeseeds.org/get-seeds/communityseedgrants](http://www.nativeseeds.org/get-seeds/communityseedgrants)) and grow the varieties to have the materials to use in class.

Throughout the creation of the Seed Expression, have students present their work and explain the connection between their creation and how it relates to the Seed Diary. Students can give each other suggestions for how to improve the work.

**Skills:**

Reading  
Analyzing Primary Sources  
Speaking and Listening  
Visual Arts

**Key Vocabulary:**

Domestication  
Hopi  
Tohono O'odham  
Chiltepin  
White Mountain Apache  
Tarahumara  
Botanical Name  
Cultivation Technique

**Additional Activities:**

Grow the varieties in your school garden and document their growth via drawings, photographs, and measurements. Set up an experiment by planting a variety in a few different locations (full sun, partial shade) or watering schedules and recording their growth. Make a recipe using the produce from the variety and consider having a classroom or school wide taste test.

Write a poem or a creative writing piece inspired by the Seed Diary and supplemental reading.

Use Google Earth to make a map of the seed collection site. What type of environment was this seed found? What does that indicate about the environments where this seed will grow? Higher grade levels can utilize the Native Seeds/SEARCH ADAPTS database system to find additional photographs and environmental variables. Visit [www.nativeseeds.org/get-seeds/adapts](http://www.nativeseeds.org/get-seeds/adapts).