



Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden (Hands-On Family)

By Renata Brown

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A refreshing source of ideas to help your children learn to grow their own patch of earth, *Gardening Lab for Kids* encourages children to get outside and enjoy nature. This fun and creative book features 52 plant-related activities set into weekly lessons, beginning with learning to read maps to find your heat zone, moving through seeds, soil, composting, and then creating garden art and appreciating your natural surroundings. Author **Renata Fossen Brown** guides your family through fun opportunities learning about botany, ecology, the seasons, food, patience, insects, eating, and cooking. The labs can be used as singular projects or to build up to a year of hands-on outdoor experiences. The lessons in this book are open-ended to be explored over and over - with different results each time! *Garden Lab for Kids* is the perfect book for creative families, friends, and community groups and works as lesson plans for both experienced and new gardeners. Children of all ages and experience levels can be guided by adults and will enjoy these engaging exercises. So, slip on your muddy clothes, and get out and grow!

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Lab

Toads (and their close relatives, frogs) are very important for the ecosystem. Both animals' main diet consists of insects, many of which are pests to food crops, such as aphids or slugs. Wouldn't it be great to attract them to your yard to keep an eye on your garden?

Materials

- 10" (25 cm) clay pot
- Paints
- Paint brushes
- Clear polyurethane
- Sealer
- Trowel



Fig. 1: Decorate the pot, let dry, add sealer, and let dry.

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1. Paint some fun designs on the clay pot and let it dry. Apply the sealer and let dry overnight. (Fig. 1) 2. Find a shady, out-of-the-way location in your garden for your toad abode. Using the trowel, dig a slight depression the soil so that when you lay the pot on its side, it won't roll around. (Fig. 2) 3. Lay the pot on its side in the depression you dug. Fill the area around the pot with soil so that the pot will stay in place.



Fig. 2: Dig a small area for the pot.

DIG DEEPER! If you aren't seeing frogs or toads in your neighborhood when there should be some around, there could be something wrong. Lawn chemicals, pollution, or acid rain could be some of the reasons. Both frogs and toads are amphibians, and are key indicators of a healthy environment. Why? Because they breathe and absorb water through their skin! If the environment is polluted, they ingest those pollutants, which can kill them or prevent them from reproducing. Healthy toads, Healthy environment.

Review

"This fun collection of DIY activities – or gardening 'experiments,' as the author calls them – ranges from building rain barrels and gardening tool boxes to making a desert terrarium or growing a tropical porch container. My kids were immediately drawn to the projects in this book; my daughter has big plans for the fairy garden, and my son wants to make a sprinkler. And we're all fans of the mini pizza garden that helps us grow our own tomatoes, peppers, onions, basil and oregano." - *CoolMomPicks.com*

'beautifully presented, and the ideas are lovely'

About the Author

As Associate Director of Education, Renata Fossen Brown (Cleveland, OH) oversees the thousands of school children visiting Cleveland Botanical Garden yearly, as well as the development and implementation of teacher professional development workshops. She assisted in the planning and facilitating of a 10-day teacher workshop that traveled to Costa Rica to study biodiversity. Brown is involved in the writing of interpretation and exhibit graphics at the Garden and served as president of the Cleveland Regional Council of Science Teachers. Brown holds a B.A. in Biology from the University of Toledo and an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from Bradley University, in Peoria, Illinois. She is certified to teach grades 7-12 science, and has been active in informal science education since 1993. As Assistant Curator of Education at the Toledo Zoo, Brown was responsible for all educational programs occurring on Zoo grounds, as well as researching and writing for their Emmy award winning television show, "Zoo Today." Creating and implementing their very first Earth Day Celebration is a task of which she is particularly proud. She continued her education role, while adding volunteer coordinator duties while working at Luthy Botanical

Garden in Peoria, Illinois. A native Clevelander, Renata Fossen Brown gladly returned home in 2004 after a 15 year absence. She was named the Garden's Clara DeMallie Sherwin Chair in Education in December 2004. She is usually surrounded in her yard by her three dogs and prefers natives and perennials over annuals any day. She is particularly in love with purple coneflower.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Snyder:

This Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden (Hands-On Family) book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. That Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden (Hands-On Family) without we understand teach the one who reading it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden (Hands-On Family) can bring if you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden (Hands-On Family) having good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Leticia Brewster:

This book untitled Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden (Hands-On Family) to be one of several books which best seller in this year, here is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it through online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, because you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to you to past this book from your list.

Hope Giles:

The book Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden (Hands-On Family) has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was published by the very famous author. The author makes some research ahead of write this book. This book very easy to read you may get the point easily after perusing this book.

Chantal Dow:

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