Lesson 20.2: How We Plant a Tree

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Objective

Students will learn the procedure for tree planting

Introduction

What do you do?

Each of you has a yard near the house. What tree would you like to plant and take care of?

Tips for the teacher

- Give students a couple of minutes to say what kind of fruit and decorative trees grow in Armenia, and which of them are most popular.
- Ask students to recite a poem or sing a song about trees.
- Ask students if any of them has ever planted a tree and how he/she did it.

Combine the stories into one and explain how a tree is planted:

To plant a tree you need to choose the appropriate species for the climate. The tree should be planted on a secure territory where nobody can step on it or break it. The site must have an irrigation system since it is not allowed to water trees with drinking water which is very expensive in Armenia. Decorative trees are planted more easily than fruit trees.

Step 1: Dig the hole. The hole for the tree must not be too big or too little, so make it approximately 50 cm deep and 50 cm wide.

Step 2: Before planting the tree check the soil and if it is poor add manure into the soil of the tree bed.

Step 3: Before planting check the quality of the seedlings—remove damaged or dry parts of the roots. The roots of deciduous saplings should only be trimmed in two situations: if there is obvious disease associated with a particular section of a tree’s root system; or if the size of the tree’s root system exceeds the size of the planting hole that can be reasonably dug. The root of the tree must be comfortable in the hole and it must not be damaged.

Step 4: Put the tree in the hole in such a way that the grafted part faces to the East. It is done to keep the grafted part warm as the sun rises from the East.

Step 5: Pour a half bucket of water in the hole and then add soil from the top layer of the ground as it is more fertile than the soil from deeper in the hole. Press the soil with your feet so the roots are covered with soil.

Step 6: After pressing the soil slightly pull the seedling upwards to make sure the roots are firmly covered with soil.

Step 7: Water the tree.

Tips for the teacher

- Ask students to repeat the procedure
- Tell students about tree care; you can compare tree care with child care
- Keep the students informed of the tree planting date
Follow-up activities

Organize a tree planting event in the school backyard where the students can plant a few trees.

What would they like to do in their sacred grove? In addition to trees you should consider planting pretty flowering plants and placing items such as feeders to attract small birds to the sacred grove.

With students write the rules of behavior in the sacred grove on the chalkboard. These should include respect for nature, no littering, and no loud activity or running. Most importantly, it should stress that in the sacred grove, everyone has the right to speak and be heard. This is a safe place for everyone to share ideas without fear of feeling foolish or silly. As the teacher it will be your responsibility to promote this safe environment for communication at all times.

The sacred grove may eventually become a focal point for school activities with parents and celebrations for the school in general.