



I Spy with My Little Eye: Vegetables, an Early STEM Experience

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Open-Ended Questions

Vegetable Group:

- What do you notice about the colors on this page?
- How do you know this is a vegetable/fruit?
- Tell me what you know about the vegetables on this page.
- Which is your favorite/least favorite vegetable? Why?

Clean vs. Dirty:

- How do you know which vegetables are clean/dirty?
- Why do some of the vegetables have dirt on them?
- How would you clean the vegetables?

Short, Long, Thin, Wide

- Describe the vegetables.
- Why do you think some vegetables grow to different lengths/widths?
- What do vegetables need to grow?
- What's the difference between these vegetables?

- How can you measure the length of the shortest/longest/tallest vegetable?
- Are some vegetables wider than others? How can you tell?
- How do the thin vegetables compare to the other/s?

Smooth vs. Lumpy

- What makes something smooth/lumpy?
- How do you think lumpy vegetables would feel if you touched them?
- How can you find other objects that are smooth/lumpy?
- Why do you think vegetables come in so many different shapes?

Heavy:

- How can you tell the size of a vegetable?
- How can you find out the weight of a vegetable?
- Do you think the color of the vegetable makes a difference in its weight? Why? Why not?

Top vs. Bottom

- How is the cabbage separated?
- Why do you think the grocer separates the cabbage?

Middle:

- What do you notice about the vegetables on this page?
- How did the vegetables get this way?
- Describe the vegetables in the middle of each column/row/page.
- Do you think you would need to cook these vegetables? Why? Why not?

Close vs. Far:

- Why do you think the vegetables are sitting far apart/close together?
- What else do you notice about where the vegetables are sitting?
- How can you measure how far apart the vegetables are?

In vs. Out:

- How do you know which vegetables are in/out of the basket?
- Which of these vegetables are you willing to taste? Why? Why not?

Shred:

- What does it mean to shred a vegetable?
- How do you shred a vegetable?
- Why do you think people shred vegetables?
- How does a shredded vegetable differ from one that is sliced/whole?

Slicing:

- Describe a circle.
- Tell me what you know about cutting/slicing.
- How do you know which vegetables are sliced and which are whole?
- Which tools would you use to slice a vegetable? How do they work?
- What would this vegetable look like if you sliced it differently?
- How can you tell which vegetable has the most slices?

Cutting:

- Why do people cut vegetables into sticks?
- Can you eat vegetables that aren't cut into sticks? Why? Why not?
- Would the vegetables fit in the container if they weren't cut? Why? Why not?
- Why aren't the tomatoes cut?

Chopping:

- What does it mean to chop a vegetable?
- What's the difference between slicing and chopping?
- Why do you think people chop vegetables into small pieces?

Peeling:

- What does it mean to peel a vegetable?
- What happens when you peel a vegetable?
- How can you tell which vegetables are peeled and which aren't?
- Which tool makes it easy to peel a vegetable? Why? How does it work?
- Why do you think people peel vegetables?
- Do you have to peel a vegetable to eat it? Why? Why not?

Seeds:

- What is a seed?
- How can you tell which vegetables have seeds?
- Why are there seeds inside the vegetables and not outside?
- Why do you think seeds come in different sizes/shapes?
- What do you have to do to see if a vegetable has seeds, like cucumbers or tomatoes?
- Why do some vegetables have seeds inside and others don't?
- What do you notice about the onion on this page?

Roots:

- What are roots?
- Describe the roots you see.
- Where do roots grow? Why?
- How do roots help vegetables grow?

- Why do you think roots grow on the bottom of vegetables?
- Why don't you see roots on the pepper/cucumber/corn?

Bulbs:

- What is a vegetable bulb?
- What does the shape of a bulb remind you of? Why?
- Do you think bulbs have roots? Why? Why not?
- Where do you think bulbs grow? Why?

Pods:

- What is a pod?
- Why do you think peas grow in pods?
- How does a pod help the peas grow?
- What's the difference between an open and a closed pod?
- Can you close the pods with the peas inside? Why? Why not?
- What happens when you take the peas out of the pods?

Sprouts:

- What is a sprout?
- Describe these sprouts.
- How are sprouts the same/different from other vegetables?
- Why do you think the word sprout means "to grow" or "spring up?"

Stems:

- What is a stem?
- Why are there stems on top of the vegetable/s?
- What's the difference between a stem and a leaf/flower/root?
- How do stems help vegetables grow?

Husk:

- What is a husk?
- How does a husk help corn grow?
- Can you eat a husk? Why? Why not?
- How can you use a corn husk?

Leaves:

- What are leaves?
- Why do you see leaves on vegetables?
- How do leaves help vegetables?
- Why do you think leafy vegetables are also called leafy greens?
- How do you know which leaves you can eat?

Half vs. Whole:

- What is a half/whole?
- How do you measure a half?
- What does it mean when you have two equal parts?
- How do you know when a vegetable is whole?
- Why do people cut vegetables in half?
- How else can a vegetable be divided?

Cooked vs. Fresh:

- What does cook mean?
- How can you tell if a vegetable is cooked?
- Why do people cook vegetables?
- What is the difference between cooked and raw/fresh vegetables?
- Do you have to cook vegetables to eat them? Why? Why not?
- Do you think cooking vegetables changes the way they taste? Why? Why not?