



# “Where food begins”

What are you doing for World Soils Day?  
December 5, this Friday?



If nothing else we all eat so you could use the images above (from the UN's FAO World Soil Day Campaign materials\*) to discuss the soils- plant-food link!

As we are also at the end of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming, this links it to 2015 International Year of Soils- as vegetables and fruits grown in soil in home gardens are likely to be for home consumption and thus examples of family farming – rural or urban.

## What could primary classes do?

### A Conduct a survey

for what is growing in your students' backyards to lead in to using these posters on World Soils Day this Friday?

- 1 What vegetable plants, and maybe how many?
- 2 What fruit trees are growing, and maybe how many ? (You can add more plant groups if you want)
- 3 What types of animals, that you eat, graze on your backyard grass?

### B Use the posters

- 1 What do these images say are the most important roles of soils?
- 2 Collate the data students bring\* to school on World Food Day
- 3 create your own school graphic# of what is growing in your school community's soils.

\* If you don't want to organise this part, you could instead use the data that was collected from the Wimmera IYFF World Environment Day Survey, found at <http://familyfarms.enviroed4all.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/food-plants-in-home-gardens-WED-data.pdf>

# If you would like to take a photo of your graphic and email it to me at [enviroed4all@gmail.com](mailto:enviroed4all@gmail.com) , I will put it onto the familyfarms.enviroed4all website for others to be able to share in.

### C Discussions

- 1 the need for soil and the features of different plants (and food animals) – Biological Science.
- 2 The need for soil by all these plants and our need for such mini man-made environments (and food animals) - Geography.
- 3 the shapes and relative sizes of the plants (and food animals) - Maths.
- 4 exploring the graphic, planning yours, creating it- Art and Communication
- 5 reading, writing, discussing and seeing meanings of the food names/groups – English
- 6 soil-plant- food animal system, as part of an environment system - Sustainability.

### Some Australian Curriculum links

English- literacy – F-6 names and meanings of these plants, oracy- discussion,  
Science – Knowledge – Biological – F-6, Earth – 3 soil as a resource,  
Maths – Measurement and Geometry- F-3  
Geography- Knowledge – F-2 of place, 4-5 soil in environment supports people through food  
Arts- Visual – F-6 exploring ideas, sharing artworks  
Sustainability – Systems OI's 1-2

\* <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/world-soil-day/campaign-material/en/>

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