Compare & Contrast
3rd & 4th grade

Students use all five senses to find and classify contrasting objects on the farm. Students develop deeper understanding of opposites through categorizing garden plant traits.

20-30 min

Lesson Objectives:
- Students define “opposite”
- Students classify items based on a defined characteristics
- Students express awe and appreciation for the farm and the natural environment

What You Need

Egg cartons with opposite categories written on the bottom (at least 4 different ones)

What To Do

Begin by explaining that we will be using our five senses to explore and learn about the plants on the farm. We will be searching for opposites, ask students to describe what opposite means. What are some examples of opposites?

Divide the group in to pairs (or a group of 3 if it’s an odd number). Explain that each group will get a special collecting container (egg carton) that has the opposites you will collect written on the bottom. Don’t let the other groups see your words—this is a secret. Demonstrate how items will be collected: 6 of each trait on each long row. Each group will be collecting different opposites.

Allow about 10 minutes to collect. Remind students to stay in the boundaries and only take small specimens.

Gather the group back together and have them exchange cartons without looking at the bottom. Have them make observations to determine the opposite categories that the other groups collected.

If there is time have each group share what the best example was for their categories.¹

¹ Lesson from Life Lab: The Growing Classroom