

THANKSGIVING LESSON PLAN FOR KINDERGARTEN

ACTIVITY: THE THREE SISTERS

Massachusetts State Standards

Arts Curriculum Framework Standards: PK-K.MA.Cr.02; PK-K.MA.R.07; PK-K.MA.Co.11; PK-K.V.Co.11

English Language Arts and Literacy Standards: W.K.2; L.K.1, L.K.2

Life Science Standards: KLS1

Materials

The book, *Keepunumuk: Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story*

Corn

- Green construction paper
- Green pom poms
- Green pipe cleaners
- Black marker
- Glue

Beans

- Green construction paper
- Green pom poms
- Green pipe cleaners
- Black marker
- Glue

Squash

- Paper Bag
- Green felt or construction paper
- Black marker
- Glue

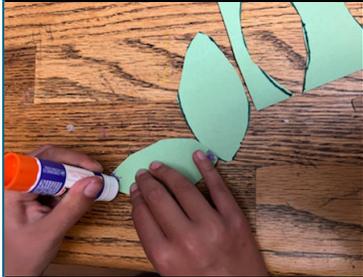
Instructions

Read *Keepunumuk: Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story* to the class, and then craft the Three Sisters. Each of the 3 Sisters will be made separately. This activity might be carried out over several sessions leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday.

TO MAKE CORN:

Illustration	Instructions
	<p>Paint the toilet paper roll yellow</p>
	<p>Using the template provided at the end of this lesson plan, cut out leaves from the green construction paper for the corn husk and glue them to the bottom of the toilet paper roll. Draw on the corn's face with a marker/ or glue on googly eyes. *optional: glue real corn kernels to the ear</p>

TO MAKE BEANS:

Illustration	Instructions
	<p>Using the template, cut the bean pod out of construction paper.</p>
	<p>Glue the ends of the bean and pinch them together to shape the bean pod.</p>
	<p>Glue green pom-poms to the pod. Leave room to draw a face on the pod.</p>
	<p>Draw a face on the pod with a marker, or glue on a mouth and googly eyes.</p>
	<p>*optional: Add leaves and green pipe cleaners to make beanstalks.</p>

TO MAKE SQUASH:

Illustration	Instructions
	<p>If you don't have orange or yellow paper bags, paint the paper bag the color of squash. You can get creative with details if you like. See the example to the left.</p>
	<p>Fill the paper bag with crumpled up newspaper (or alternative filler if you prefer).</p>
	<p>Tie the end of the paper bag with a rubber band. *Optional: Twist the end of the bag to make a stem and paint it green.</p>
	<p>Using the template, cut squash leaves and glue them to the bag.</p>
	<p>Using the black marker, add a face to squash. *Option: glue on googly eyes to make a face, and/or draw ribs on the pumpkin.</p>

2. Show the picture of the 3 sisters provided at the end of this lesson. This picture can also be printed out as a coloring page. Have the students point out where each of the sisters is located in relation to each other. Then show them or have them point out the different parts of each plant:

- Where is corn's tassel?
- Where is corn's leaf
- Where is corn's ear?
- Where is corn's silk?
- Where is corn's husk?
- Where is corn's stalk?
- Where are corn's roots?
- Where is beans?
- Where are bean's leaves?
- Where are beans' roots?
- Where is squash?
- Where are squash's ribs?
- Where are squash's leaves?

3. Read the following text:

"Corn, Beans, and Squash are called the Three sisters because they help each other to grow. Corn's tall stalks make a pole for beans to climb high to get the sun's energy. Climbing high is also a way for Beans to leave more room on the ground for Squash to spread out. When Squash spreads out all over the ground, it helps to keep the ground cool, which keeps water in the ground that all 3 sisters need to grow and stay healthy. Beans also make the soil healthy for corn and squash to grow. Do you know what else Beans does? By wrapping around the Corn's stalk, Beans makes Corn sturdier so that wind cannot knock Corn down."

4. Distribute the handout. Read each of the prompts out loud. Have students say the answer. For each response, write the answer on the board. Have students copy the answers and draw pictures to accompany their responses.

5. Once the students have completed their handouts, have them play with the three sisters encouraging them to have the sisters interact as they did in the book or based on what they just learned. After this play time, ask students to share what Beans, Corn and Squash did in their game.

6. Discuss the following questions with the class:

Does anyone remember from the book what time of year it was when Tisquantum helped the Newcomers to plant the Three Sisters?

Answer: In the late spring.

Ask the students how they know when is the right time to plant.

Answer: After the ground has thawed, and when there is no more frost on the ground.

Have any of you ever grown a garden? What is the first thing you do?

Answer: "prepare the soil." Explain that preparing the soil could be purchasing soil and putting it in the ground, or a pot. But, it could also be adding things to the soil to make it healthier for plants to grow.

Do any of you remember what Tisquantum put in the soil to make it healthy for the 3 sisters to grow?

Answer: "fish." Students might ask, "why fish?." Fish bodies put nutrients in the soil that help plants to grow. This is called fertilizing the soil.

After you fertilize the soil, then what happens?

Answer: "plant seeds." Explain that different kinds of plants thrive in different kinds of conditions. All plants need sunlight, water and nutrients, but in different amounts and in different places. An extension could be to walk around the classroom and/or school yard and have students point out which plants like to grow in shady areas vs. sunny areas.

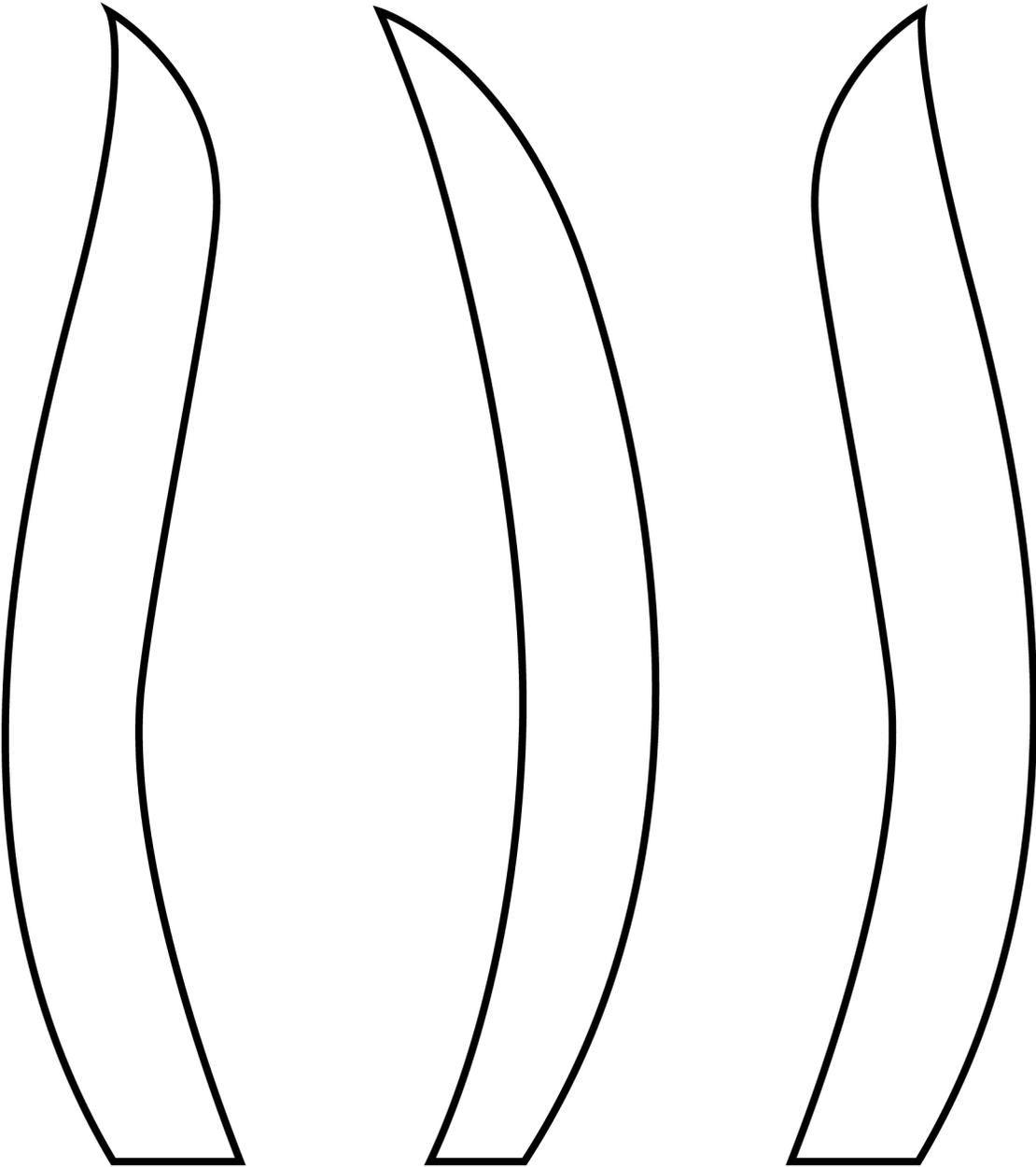
And then what?

Answer: "Weed and water"

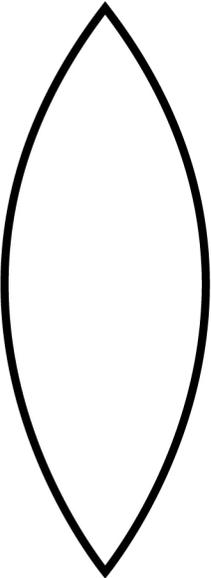
When do you harvest the 3 Sisters? What is the weather like?

Answer: "In the fall." Explain that the harvest should happen when it starts to become colder and leaves have fallen off the trees.

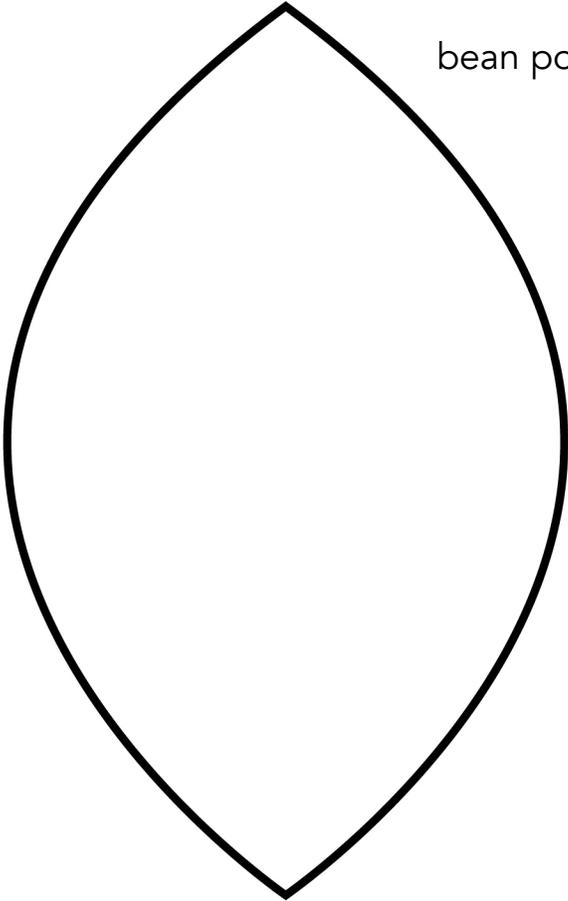
CORN LEAVES TEMPLATE



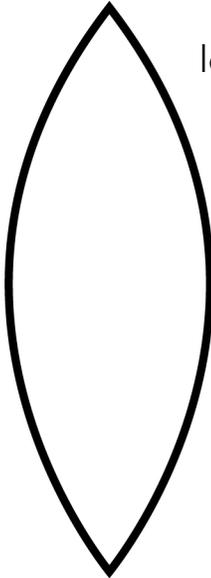
BEANS TEMPLATE



leaf

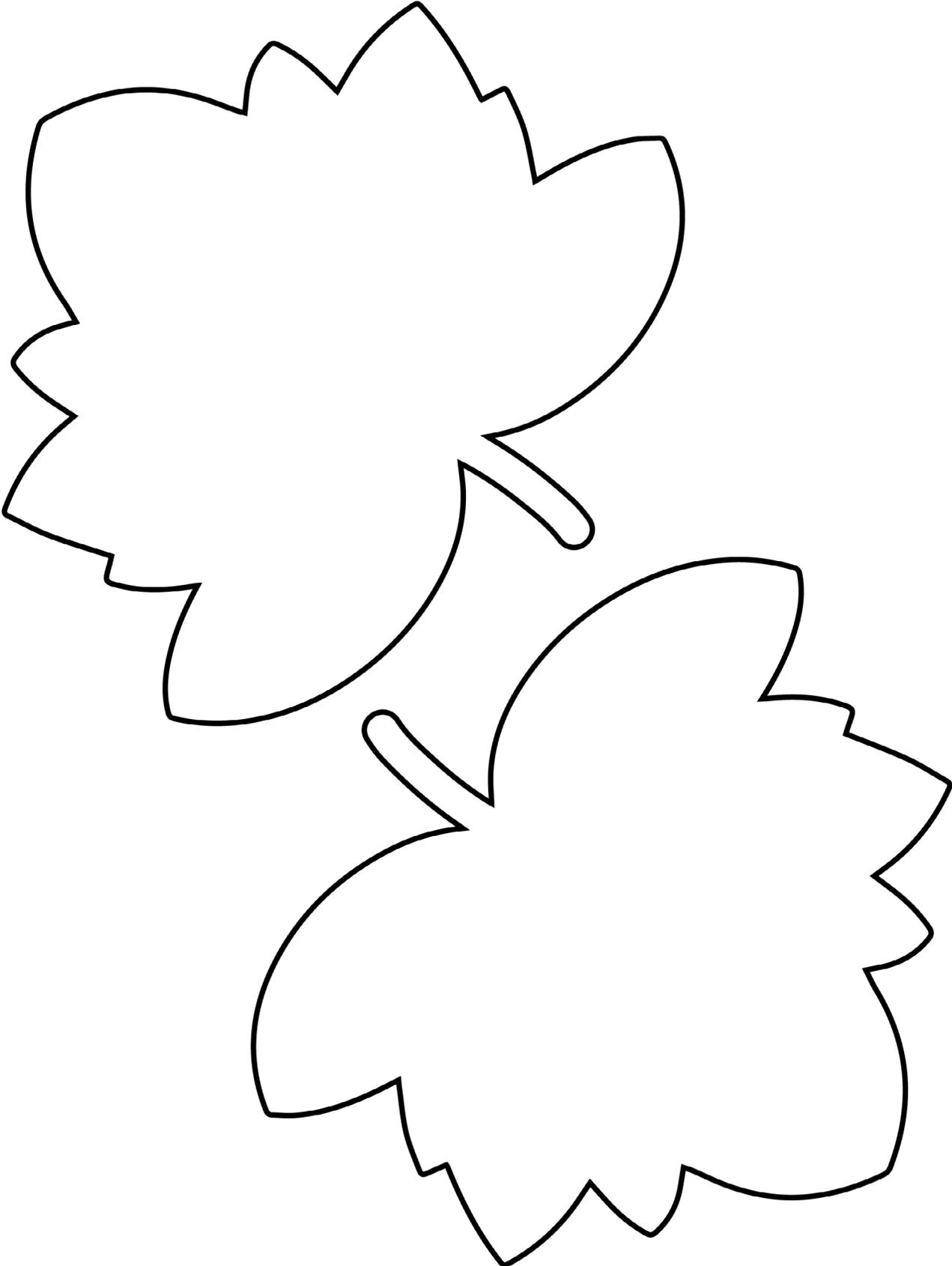


bean pod

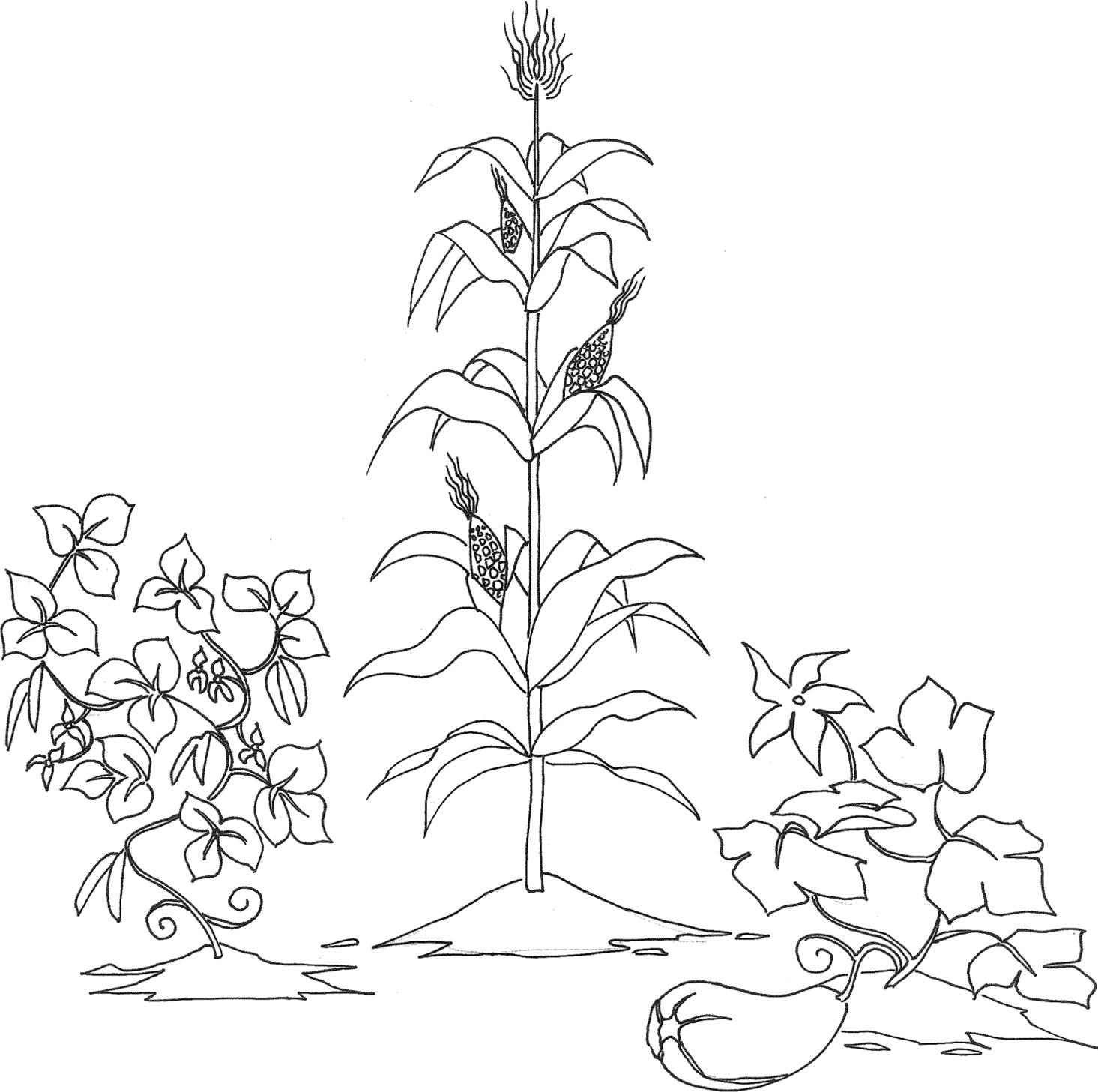


leaf

SQUASH LEAVES TEMPLATE

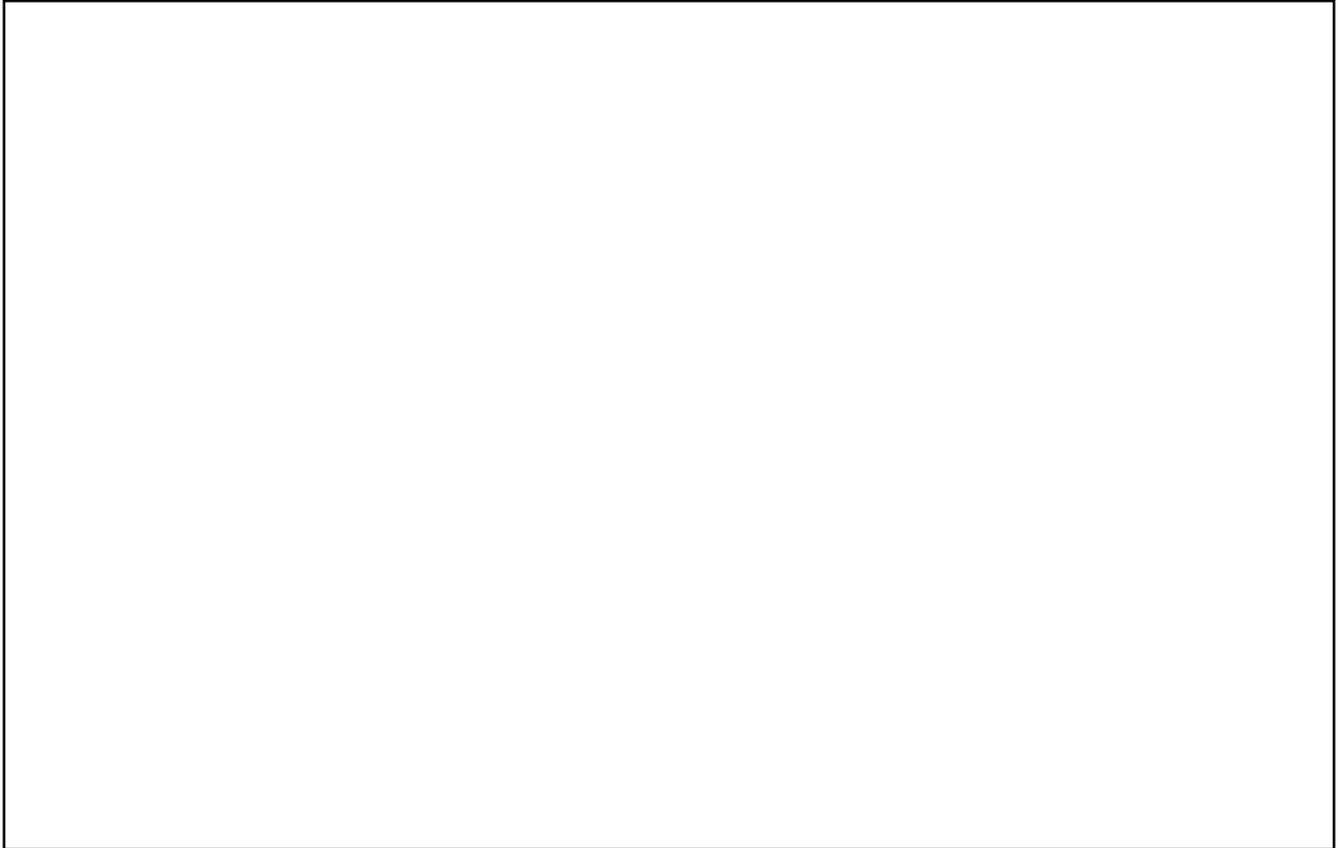


THE THREE SISTERS



Name: _____

THREE SISTERS ACTIVITY



The Three sisters –Beans, Corn and Squash– all work together to help each other to grow and be healthy.

Which sister is the tallest? _____

Draw a picture of her in the space provided.

Which sister keeps Corn's stalks stable with her vines? _____

Add this sister to your drawing.

Which sister keeps the ground cool and moist? _____

Add this sister to your drawing.