

Pepper's Plant Pals



Science

For the Classroom:

- Group structure - small groups
- Location - at tables
- Approximate time - 15 minutes

Next Generation Science Standards

- 3-LS4-3. Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.

Next Generation Science Standards

- “Pepper’s Plant Pals” sheet (1 per small group)
- Scissors (1 per small group)
- Access to devices with internet may be helpful for research

Direction

Explain to students that plants can work together to survive well. Distribute one copy of the “Pepper Plant Pals” and a pair of scissors to each small group. Instruct students to cut out each of the cards and use what they know about the plants to work together to take their best guess at matching them. Some hints are provided on the cards but students may also research more about the plants to inform their understanding. When the groups are finished, allow each to share how they think the descriptions and plants match and describe the evidence that led them to that conclusion.



Pepper's Plant Pals

Science



Pepper's Plant Pals

1. These plants mask the scent of pepper plants so pests can't find them in the garden.	Set A <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nasturtiums (loved by aphids)• Radishes (loved by flea beetles)
2. These plants have lots of little flowers that attract the beneficial insects (that eat the pests before they get to the pepper plants).	Set B <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corn
3. These plants lure pests away from pepper plants by being yummier and more attractive.	Set C <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spinach, lettuce, chard• Beets, parsnips, carrot
4. These plants grow thick and low to the ground so weeds can't grow around your pepper plants.	Set D <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beans (nitrogen-fixing)• Cowpeas (nitrogen-fixing)
5. These plants improve the soil around the pepper plants by adding nutrients.	Set E <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carrot Family - like dill, fennel, cilantro (umbrella-shaped clusters of tiny flowers)
6. These plants attract bumble bees that help pollinate the pepper plants.	Set F <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zinnias• Snapdragons
7. These plants protect the pepper plants from the wind and too much sun.	Set G <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allium Family- like chives, onions, garlic• Basil (herb)

Answers: 1/G, 2/E, 3/A, 4/C, 5/D, 6/F, 7/B