Grades 3–6

LESSON PLAN

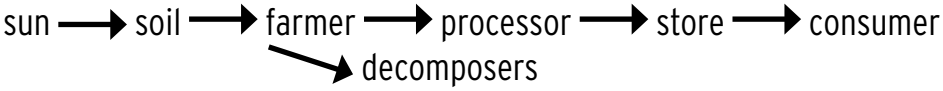
From Soil to Snack: Caring for Our Planet Every Step of the Way

Earth Day is a great time to think about the ways we can protect the planet! As we celebrate Earth Day, we might take part in clean-up activities, tree planting, or turning off lights we're not using. But even something as simple as choosing a snack can be a way we help.

Earth Day is also a chance to learn how Ontario grain farmers work every day to grow food and protect the Earth. Be prepared for Earth Day in April by starting conversations with your stu-dents!

PURPOSE OF THIS LESSON

Students will:



- Understand the food chain from the sun to the consumer
- Learn about the role of decomposers on the farm
- Identify producers, consumers, and decomposers, in the above chain understanding that there are different meanings.
- Explore how each step impacts the planet and solutions to limit those impacts.
- Connect food systems to Earth Day themes

LESSON FLOW (45–60 MINUTES)

1. Minds On (10–15 min)

Prompt: Open a lunchbox and find a sample snack item as a prop.

Think about a snack you ate today. Where did it begin?

Guide students toward:

- Sun
- Soil
- Plants
- Farmers

Ask:

- What does the Earth provide?
- What does the farmer do?
- What happens before grains reach a store?
- What is happening in the soil after grains are sent to a processor to be made into food?

Vocabulary: Before proceeding with the lesson, please review the vocabulary list, paying atten-tion to the terms consumer, decomposer, and producer.

2. Watch the Video (3–5 min)

Play Video:

From Soil to Snack: Caring for Our Planet Every Step of the Way

After viewing, ask:

- What surprised you?
- What step did you not think about before?
- Why are decomposers important?

3. Ozobot Earth Day Activity

Use Ozobots to code a looped "Soil to Snack" path that includes producers, consumers, and de-composers.

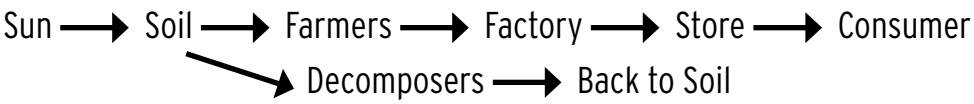
You will need:

- White paper (or Ozobot grid)
- Ozobot Colour Code Guide
- Paper
- Pencils & Markers

If you need a reminder of how to use the Ozobot, check out this video:

How To: Use Your Ozobot Bit – Part 1

Students create a looped path showing:



	**SUN** Plants use energy from the sun.
	**SOIL** Plants need healthy soil full of nutrients and clean water.
	**FARMERS** Sustainable farming = healthy soil, water, and ecosystems.
	**DECOMPOSERS** Organisms in soil break down waste and return nutrients to the soil.
	**PROCESSORS** Plants are processed into food, like granola bars.
	**STORE** Food is transported to stores.
	**CONSUMER** Buys food, including healthy snacks. In nature, a consumer is an organism or animal that consumes other organisms.

Encourage students to use some special moves like a tornado, spin, or zig zag.

Success Criteria:

- Includes all 7 steps
- Labels producer, consumer, decomposer
- Ozobot successfully completes the cycle
- Includes creative coding moves (e.g., tornado, zig zag)

Discussion Prompts:

- Which steps use fuel?
- Which steps use electricity?
- How could we reduce impact on the planet?
- What does “buying local” change?

Extension Question: What would happen if one part of the cycle broke?