Let’s Start a Backyard Camp - Day 1

In the summer, MCM hosts a special week of Backyard Camp, and we’re sharing our plans for you to experience your own Backyard Camp. Begin by creating a gardening journal to keep track of your discoveries and observations. Our lessons are divided into days, with two activities per day, and broken down by age on our website, so you can tailor the lessons for the ages of your children. This is just one more way you can enjoy MCM at home!

Morning | Food Scrap Planting: Gather potato pieces with eyes, carrot tops, ends of green onions, garlic sections, or tops of pineapples. Plant them, water them, and watch them grow.

• Pre-K: With the help of your grownup, plant and water your food scraps. Check on your plants during the week. How is your plant changing?

• Grades K-2: Same instructions as above. In your journal, draw pictures of what you think your plant will look like. Check it every day and see how it changes. Use a ruler to measure the growth.

• Grades 3-5: Same instructions as above. Use your journal to describe your plants. Draw what is happening to the different plants and how they change over the course of a few weeks. Why do you think this is happening? With your grown-up’s permission and help, research these plants.

Afternoon | Excavation Sites: Mark a few spots in the yard and dig with an appropriate tool to see what’s under the dirt. Visit this spot every other day. What do you notice? Did it rain? Are there leaves?

• Pre-K: Parents can hide a few toys in the dirt and the children can “discover” them.


• Grades 3-5: Write about what you found at your site in your journal. What has changed from day to day? What type of weather have you had? Has the temperature made a difference to the area? What is on the surface of the site versus underneath the soil?

Please tag us on social media, @mschildsmuseum on Instagram and @MississippiChildrensMuseum on Facebook, using the hashtag #mcmathome. You may also send us an email with any questions or ideas at programs@mcm.ms