



# THE VISIT TO THE VEGETABLE PATCH

## ACTIVITY 4



One morning Princess Peapod came to the Royal Dining Room with a frown on her face. "What's wrong, Princess Peapod?" asked Little D.

"I have to go out to the Royal Garden this morning and clean up a mess. Last night someone pulled up all the signs in the Vegetable Patch. Mother has asked me to fix it," said Princess Peapod.

"Can I go with you?" asked Little D.

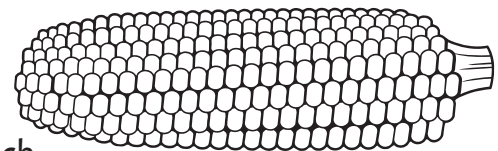
Princess Peapod looked at the dragon for a moment. Then her frown turned into a smile.

"I think that is a very good idea, Little D," she said. "You can help me. And I can teach you about the Vegetable Group."

After breakfast, the dragon and Princess Peapod walked down the hill to the Royal Garden. You could tell there were many different plants growing in the Vegetable Patch. But there was no way to tell which plant was which vegetable. All of the signs were neatly piled up at the garden gate.

Little D picked up the top sign. "Corn," he read. "Corn is yellow and long. Where can it be?"

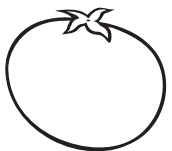
Princess Peapod said, "Look for tall stalks. Corn grows on tall stalks."



"I see it," said Little D running to the other side of the Vegetable Patch with the sign for corn. "Do you have a hammer?" he asked Princess Peapod.

She pulled a hammer from her backpack. Pound, pound, pound. The sign went in the ground.

The next sign was for tomatoes. Little D asked, "Can you describe a tomato?"



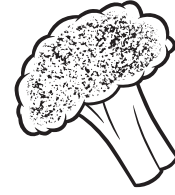
"Sure," said the Princess. "Tomatoes are round and red. They grow on short green plants."

That's all Little D needed to find the plot of tomatoes. Pound, pound, pound. The sign went in the ground. Soon the dragon and the Princess were working easily on the project. Little D would shout

Name \_\_\_\_\_

out the name of the vegetable. Princess Peapod would describe it. Little D would find the vegetable in the garden and together they'd put up the sign.

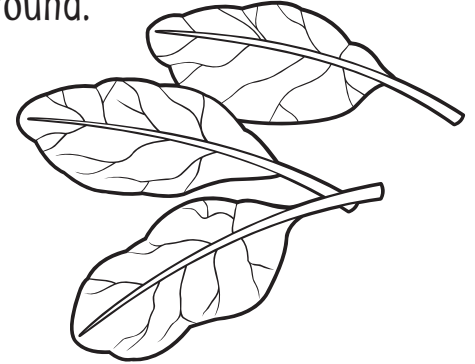
"Broccoli," said the dragon.



"Broccoli is green and has little green flowers on a stalk," said the Princess.

"I see it," said Little D. Pound, pound, pound. The sign went in the ground.

"Spinach."



"Spinach is dark green and has flat leaves."

"I see it." Pound, pound, pound. The sign went in the ground.

"Carrots."



"Carrots are orange and pointy."

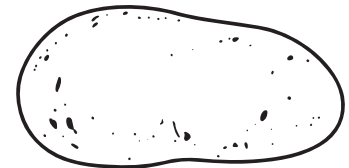
Little D looked all over the garden. "I don't see any vegetable that looks like that."

Princess Peapod smiled. "That's because carrots grow underground. We call them a root vegetable. The carrot is actually the root of the plant. Above ground you see thin green stalks and leaves."

Little D smiled, "I think I see it over there." He ran to a part of the garden with green stalks and leaves growing.

"Better check," said the Princess handing him a small shovel.

Little D carefully scooped away the dirt around one of the green stalks. But there was no carrot. Instead he saw a brown, bumpy vegetable.



"You found the potato patch," laughed the Princess.

"Potatoes grow underground too?" asked Little D.

"They sure do," said the Princess. She handed him the sign that read "Potatoes."

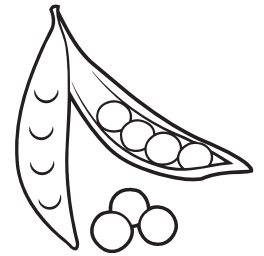
Pound, pound, pound. The sign went in the ground.

Little D found another section of the Vegetable Patch with thin green stalks and leaves. Again he carefully scooped away the dirt. But there was no carrot. This time he found a small, round, red vegetable.

“You found the radishes,” said the Princess. Little D sighed. She handed him the correct sign. Pound, pound, pound. The sign went in the ground.

Little D found one more section with thin green stalks and leaves. One more time he carefully scooped away the dirt. Underground he found a pointy, orange vegetable.

“Great,” said Princess Peapod. “You found the carrots!” Pound, pound, pound. The sign went in the ground.



At last there was just one sign left. It was the sign for peapods.

“How would you describe peapods?” said the dragon in a teasing voice.

The Princess looked at him for a moment. “They’re green, flat and pointy,” she said.

“I see them,” said Little D as he walked over to the peapods, “but I think you forgot the most important description of all.”

“What?” asked the Princess.

“Peapods are cute!” exclaimed the dragon as he grinned at his friend. Pound, pound, pound. The sign went in the ground.

They were just getting ready to go when Little D looked at his chest. Right below the blue Milk Group square, there was a green square for the Vegetable Group.

Princess Peapod clapped her hands. “You did it, Little D,” she squealed. “You’ve learned all about the Vegetable Group.”

As they walked back to the Pyramid Palace, Little D felt very happy inside. “I am learning about healthy eating,” he thought. “One food group at a time.”