

SQUARE FOOT MATH

Gardeners use square feet to calculate how many plants they can grow in a space - now you can too!

Materials: For this activity, each student needs one (1) pre-assembled square foot that indicates plant type and recommended planting number per square foot.

Directions: For each task, students should place their square feet directly onto garden soil, without overlapping. Once a space has been filled with square feet, and no more square feet will fit, students can calculate how many plants that garden space can grow. Use the information on each square foot and the specific task directions to guide you!

Task 1

Working with other students, fill a garden space with square feet representing a variety of plants. How many square feet fit in this garden space? How many total plants will your garden space hold?

Task 2

Now imagine you planted two times as many plants in this space. How many plants would this garden space now hold? Would plants' health be better, be harmed, or be unchanged by this decision? Explain.



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For tasks 3 & 4, use the information below:

PLANT TYPES

Root Vegetables



Leafy Greens



Fruiting Plants



Task 3

Working with other students, fill a garden space with square feet representing plants of just one type. Which type of plant will you grow in this garden space? How many total plants will your garden space hold?

Task 4

Root vegetables have deeper roots that pull nutrients from deeper levels of soil. Leafy greens and fruiting plants have roots that pull nutrients from soil nearer to the surface. If the goal is to rotate plantings so that soil has a chance to replenish nutrients, which type of plant would you recommend planting in this space next? Explain.
