

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Plan Your Own Garden

**Directions:** Read the passages below about different vegetables mentioned in the story “Class, Go Play in the Dirt” on page 22. Then choose one that you would like to plant in *your* garden, and tell why you chose it.

### Tomatoes

Tomatoes can be started from seeds or bought as small plants. They like sun and need about 6 hours of sun a day. Tomatoes like water too. It will take anywhere from 45 to 90 days for a tomato plant to have tomatoes.

### Lettuce

There are a lot of different kinds of lettuce. Head lettuce grows in a ball, and leaf lettuce grows on a stalk. Lettuce can be ready to eat in as little as three weeks. You can make lettuce last by planting more seeds every week or two. Then you will have fresh plants often.

### Chayote

It's also called mirliton or vegetable pear. Chayote needs a lot of room to grow. The plants grow on thick vines. A chayote plant can live for years—like a tree—in warm climates. In parts of the United States where chayote grows best, it will give you vegetables in the late summer. The plants will even grow from chayote vegetables from the grocery store.

### Arugula

Also known as roquette or rocket salad, arugula is similar to lettuce. It grows from seeds like lettuce seeds. You can plant seeds several times during the growing season so you will have fresh plants often. It likes a lot of water. If you let it grow too long, it will become tough and taste bitter. Arugula plants do not like hot temperatures.

### Green peas

Green peas prefer cool weather but will also grow where it's hot. Peas grow in pods on delicate vines. Some peas are made to be shelled, meaning you eat just the round inside. Other peas are more tender, and you can eat the pod too. Some kinds of peas will be ready in 50 days, and others will take as many as 70 days. Once you see flowers on the plant, you might have peas to eat in three weeks.

If you want to grow these vegetables, your results might be different depending on where you live. For tips about vegetables that will grow well in your area, check with a local university, visit the library, or search on the Web for your state's agricultural extension service.

**I choose:** \_\_\_\_\_

**because:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Bonus:** On the back of this sheet or on another piece of paper, design your own garden. Draw where each plant will go. Think about which plants need sun and which need room. Don't forget to draw a walkway to each plant. You don't want to miss out on harvesting your fresh food!