

STUDENT GUIDE 6.1

Designing a Flower Bed



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Situation/Problem

Imagine that your school's PTA has donated \$500 toward the design of a new flower bed in the school courtyard. Your class has been chosen to provide the design and select the plants. The area for the flower bed is 30 feet by 40 feet and enjoys full to moderate sunlight. Since the PTA would like to see several possible designs, your class will be divided into groups, with each group responsible for coming up with its own design. Your group will be given a list of possible plants from which to choose, including prices. Your goal is to design an attractive flower bed at the best cost.

Possible Strategies

1. Study some actual flower beds to gain an impression of size, color, and arrangement of the plants.
2. Sketch designs of possible flower beds on graph paper. Set up a scale. Place plants on the sketch where you think they would look best in the actual flower bed. You may prefer to design your flower bed on a computer, using software that has art and drawing components.

Special Considerations

- Visualize what your flower bed will look like now and in the future.
- Consult references to find out more about possible plants you might use.
- Seek a balance between the plants you select and the overall cost of the flower bed.
- Take into account the flowering periods of plants. Tulips, for example, bloom in the spring; marigolds bloom from summer to fall.

Designing a Flower Bed (Cont'd.)

- Consider how much sunlight the plants you select need. Also consider the amount of water necessary.
- Consider whether to choose deciduous or evergreen trees and shrubs. Deciduous plants lose their leaves in the fall; evergreens remain green throughout the year.
- Consider upkeep. Daffodils are perennials: they return each spring. Impatiens are annuals: they do not return each year and will need to be replanted. This will require new funds and labor each year for planting.
- Groundcover plants such as rug junipers do precisely what their name implies: they remain low and cover the ground. They are generally hardy and require little upkeep.
- Many plants, especially shrubs and trees, are sold in gallon containers that are related to the size of the plants. A plant in a 3-gallon container, for example, is smaller than one in a 5-gallon container.
- Generally the most attractive flower beds are those that have a mixture of flowers, shrubs, and trees with pleasing colors.

To Be Submitted

1. A final design of the flower bed, including a scale
2. Itemized tally and final cost of expenses
3. POWERPOINT OR POSTER PRESENTATION

Notes

** May use attached grid or bigger*

*NOT SMALLER**

Name _____

WORKSHEET 6.3

Centimeter Grid

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