

TOMATOES: SEASONAL EXTENSION ACTIVITY

DESCRIPTION

Students will learn about cultural traditions in South America and share things they are grateful for.

MATERIALS PROVIDED	MATERIALS NEEDED
• Images related to Pachamama celebrations • Tomato templates	• Scissors for students • Markers/crayons/colored pencils for students • Butcher paper • Tape

PREPARATION

1. Make enough copies of the tomato template so each student will have one tomato to decorate and write a message on.
2. Cut the tomato template into squares--students will cut out the tomato shapes.
3. Draw a large tomato plant on butcher paper. Do not draw any tomatoes on the plant.

BACKGROUND FOR LEADER

Planting and harvest seasons are important for cultures around the world. In South America, the Andean people honor the abundance of food the Earth provides by paying respect to and celebrating Pachamama, or Mother Earth. She is a powerful force who sustains and nourishes.

ACTION

A. Explain the following information about Pachamama to the students:

1. During late summer, local farms in Humboldt County and all throughout California are very busy harvesting many different crops, including tomatoes! Harvest time is celebrated in different ways all over the world.

For example, Andean people in South America honor the abundance of food the Earth provides by celebrating Pachamama.

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2. Pachamama is the goddess of Mother Earth in Andean mythology. She represents the source of life, food, and wellness. She helps crops grow, protects animals, and also makes earthquakes.

- **Show artwork that depicts Pachamama (Image 1).**

3. The word “Andean” refers to the Andes mountains. The Andean people in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile celebrate Pachamama.

- **Show where the Andean region is on the map and where we are in relation to that area (Image 2).**

4. August and March are especially dedicated to celebrating Pachamama.

- August is planting time, when the Andean people honor Pachamama and ask for her protection and a prosperous year.
- March is harvest time, when the Andean people give thanks for the abundance of food in their fields.

NOTE: the seasons are opposite our own because the Andean countries are in the southern hemisphere!

5. One of the main ways that the people respect and thank Pachamama is by making offerings called “pagos” or “despachos” in Spanish. These offerings usually include different symbolic items such as coca leaves, colorful flowers, fruits, grains, potatoes, candies, and miniature figurines of people and animals.

- **Show pictures of Andean people making offerings (Images 3-4).**

- **Show pictures of offerings, or pagos (Images 5-6).**

- B. Tell students that we will now be doing an art activity that focuses on what we are grateful for. It could be something that they are thankful for from Mother Earth or anything else that is important to them.

1. Hang the tomato plant drawing on the wall.
2. Hand out one square of the tomato template to each student, and provide access to pens, crayons, and scissors.
3. First, have students write a message or just one word of what they are thankful/grateful for on the tomato template using markers. Next, ask them to color it with crayon, then cut it out and place it on the tomato plant poster using tape.
4. When all tomatoes are up on the poster, take a moment to read what the students are thankful/grateful for to reflect and close out the activity.



Image 1.
“Pachamama” by Roberto Mamani Mamani of Bolivia

Image 2.

Map of South America

We are here!





Images 3-4.
People of the Andes making offerings to Pachamama



Images 5-6.
Examples of offerings to Pachamama, or pagos

