

Vertical Farming



Lesson Report

Vertical farming is a great strategy to utilize to grow food easily, cheaply and healthily in the city.

In this hands-on lesson, urban farming consultant Jon Walsh explained to Fiona's Grade 2 students that they don't need a garden to grow food – all they need is a wall, fence, gate or horizontal bar and a smart food growing idea and they can grow piles of healthy, no-spray vegetables at school.

Students also discovered how urban farming is taking off worldwide and enabling people to boost food self-sufficiency and help protect the environment.



Students then built **chain gardens** – simply flower pots hooked to a suspended chain – and learnt how they can transform a sunlit wall into a **mini farm** quickly, easily and cheaply.

Vertical farming is a great concept, especially in the city, as it allows people to grow their own food on site, takes advantage of unused spaces, helps cut food bills, saves space (grow upward, not outward), and if food is grown without chemicals, produces safer, healthier vegetables.



Jon explaining how to build a chain garden.



What did students learn?

- How to build a chain garden
- How urban farming is an important step to producing safer food in a way that is friendlier to the environment.
- How innovative and creative people are transforming walls, houses and buildings into urban farms.



- Urban food production & training
- Garden installation & maintenance
- Gardening demonstrations.

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Chain gardens can be suspended from rooftops, hung down sunlit walls, gates, balconies and other elevated locations.

