

**Activity:** Root and Bloom Art

Create an image of flowers, vegetables, fruits, or another plant that shows not only what grows up out of the ground, but the important roots that live beneath the surface of the earth.



William Zorach, *Plowing the Fields*, 1917, oil on canvas, 24 in. x 36 in, Museum Purchase.

This oil painting depicts the hills of Plainfield, New Hampshire, where the Zorach and his wife summered at “Echo Farm” in 1917. Notice the stylized, undulating forms of the land, the intentionally elementary rendering of trees, animals and figures, and the vibrant, non-naturalistic colors of the landscape, all of which reflect Zorach’s embrace of French modern art. What do you think will be planted in this field? What would you plant?

For more information about this artwork click [here](#).

**Materials:**

- paper
- Pencil
- Any coloring supplies such as paint, colored pencil, or marker

**Directions:**

- Select a flower, vegetable, or other plant that you’d like to draw and find some images of what the entire plant looks like while growing, from root to bloom.
- Use a pencil to add a line across your paper representing the ground.
- Use a pencil to sketch the shape of the roots growing underground, beneath your first pencil line.
- Sketch the plant growing above the ground.
- Add details to the background, such as grass on the ground or the sun in the sky.
- If desired, use paint, colored pencil, marker, or other tools to add color

**Tips:**

- Try adding words to your image. Think about an idea that we might plant, such as showing love to others, and what might grow from that, such as joy. Add those words to the coordinating areas of your plant.

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