

LOOKING TO LEARN

What We Eat

This week we looked closely at *Do Tomatoes Grow on Trees?* by Nikki Leone, an artwork from our current exhibition *Nourish*, and read *Harlem Grown* by Tony Hillery. If you missed our program, or are looking to continue the discussion from home, here are the highlights!

WHAT WE EAT: Where does your favorite food come from? Do you make it yourself or do you buy it from the store? Have you ever grown your food in a garden? Growing plants is hard work!



DO TOMATOES GROW ON TREES? BY NIKKI LEONE

This artist was inspired by where our food comes from. She volunteered at a community garden run by students from a local elementary school. For many students, this was their first time learning about plants. Let's look closely at this work of art and ask some questions:

- What do you see?
- Name some details you notice.
- What does the artwork remind you of?



- Which of these foods grow in a garden? Which ones do you buy from the store?
- What is a food that surprised you when you learned where it came from? What food do you wish grew on trees?

Nikki Leone, *Do Tomatoes Grow on Trees?*, 2020. Mixed media installation. Courtesy of the artist. Photos courtesy of Echard Wheeler.

HARLEM GROWN BY TONY HILLERY

This book is about students growing food for their community. Watch a read aloud of *Harlem Grown* from the Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District [here](https://www.melpublib.org/reading-harlem-grown).

- Where did Mr. Tony make his farm in Harlem? Who wanted to help him?
- What happened when they tried to grow their plants for the first time? How did the kids feel?
- Mr. Tony had to teach the kids patience and how to be good stewards of the garden. What did they do to help the plants grow?
- How did the garden help their community? Is there a community garden in your neighborhood?



Access more digital learning resources at virtualvamoca.org or follow us @VirginiaMOCA.

LOOKING TO LEARN

What We Eat

ART MAKING ACTIVITY: An additive sculpture is the process of creating a sculpture by adding materials as you go. Growing plants takes time and patience, so we'll make an additive sculpture of a plant by adding it's parts in the order that it grows.

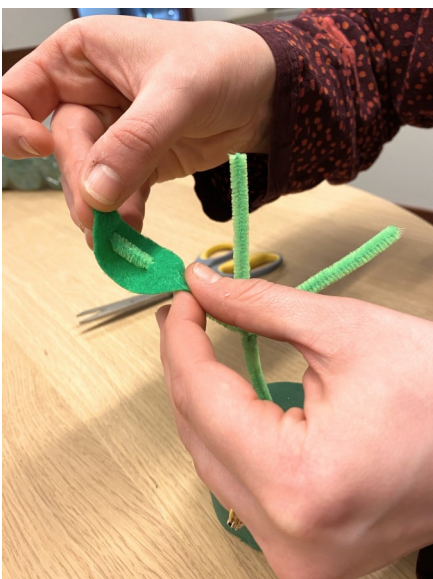
- Have you grown a plant before? What kind(s)?
- How long did it take to grow?
- How did you take care of the plant?
- How did you feel watching it grow?

SUPPLY LIST:

- Green floral foam
- Green pipe cleaners
- Green felt sheets
- Colorful foam sheets
- Wooden box
- Crinkled brown paper pieces
- Scissors

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Take out your cylinder of green floral foam. Poke one of your green pipe-cleaners down into the foam so it stands up straight, like a stem. This is your first sprout!



2. Take a second pipe-cleaner and hold it perpendicular to your sprout (like a letter "T"). Criss-cross the arms around the sprout to create branches for your plant. You can repeat this process with a few more pipe-cleaners to create more layers on your plant.
3. Cut out the shape of a leaf (no longer than your thumb) from your green felt sheet. Fold in half (hotdog style) and cut two slits into the fold. Weave your leaf through one of your pipe-cleaner branches. Repeat to add more leaves, but don't fill up all of your branches!
4. Cut a fruit, vegetable or flower shape out of the colored foam sheets. Fold in half and cut two slits into the fold. Weave your fruit, vegetable or flower through the pipe-cleaner on an empty branch.

5. Place your plant with it's foam base in the wooden box. Stuff the crinkled brown paper pieces (soil) in around the sides and on top to cover the foam. Now you have your potted plant!

Access more digital learning resources at virtualvamoca.org or follow us @VirginiaMOCA.

