



Classroom Activity

Grade Levels: 2-12, Educators

Objective: Create basic signage for indoor and outdoor gardens.

Time: 30 minutes, plus drying time

Materials:

Indoor Signage

- Rectangular metal pieces (~2"x3") and metal stakes (~6") or purchased metal garden labels. *
- Newspaper to protect surface while using spray paint
- Chalkboard spray paint
- Chalk
- Strong adhesive (e.g., Gorilla Glue®)
- Pliers, if using pre-made garden labels

Outdoor Signage

- Small, inexpensive frames
- Permanent marker
- White paper
- Wooden craft sticks
- Strong adhesive

Laying the Groundwork:

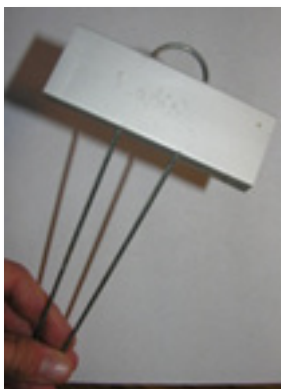
Garden signage should be inexpensive and easy to maintain, as well as, aesthetically pleasing.

* You can purchase metal garden labels at our [Gardening with Kids e-Store](#).

How to Create Basic Signage

Indoor Signage

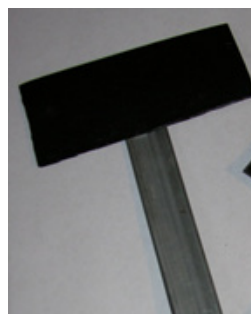
- If you are using pre-made garden labels, use the pliers to remove the label portion from the wire holder.
- Place the metal labels, with writing surface facing up, on the newspaper.



- Spray the writing surface of the label with the chalkboard paint. Let dry completely (~overnight). Spray a second coat of chalkboard paint and let dry completely (~24 hours).



- Attach the labels to the metal stakes. This can be done using a strong adhesive. If you are using pre-made garden labels, secure the label to the wire using pliers.





- Write the plant names on the chalkboard painted labels with chalk and place next to respective plants.
- *Alternate Option:* Chalkboard paint works great on Terra Cotta pots. Place a row of tape beneath the lip of the pot to prevent paint from covering the entire pot. Spray at least two coats of chalkboard paint on the lip of the pot. Allow the paint to dry in between each application. Plant your indoor garden in the pot and label with chalk.



Outdoor Signage

- Small, inexpensive frames from a thrift store can be made into seasonal outdoor signage. Select a variety of either 2"x3" or 3"x5" sizes. The shapes and colors of the frames can vary. Make sure that all frames have glass, not plastic cover slides.
- Cut small pieces of white paper to match the internal frame size. Place the white paper on the inside of the frame (behind the glass cover slide).



- Using a permanent marker, such as Sharpie®, write the plant names on the glass. This type of permanent marker will not wash off in outdoor weather events, but it will be removable with a MagicEraser®. This will allow you to change the plant names from season to season.

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You may use the frames either horizontally or vertically, depending upon the marker design you desire.



- Attach the wooden craft sticks to the back of the frames with a strong adhesive. Allow the signs to dry overnight.
- Place the plant signs in their appropriate locations.



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NGA encourages double-sided printing, with the use of recycled paper.

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