

# History of Victory Gardens

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## GRADES:

4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> (refer to suggested modifications at the end of this document)

## DURATION:

Varies depending on the chosen activity. Using the pre-designed posters can be done in an hour, creating your own could take longer. It is up to you to choose the appropriate activity. This activity is part 1 of the larger series on Victory Gardens.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Children will understand how victory gardens were created.
- Children will understand what a victory garden is comprised of.
- Children will be able to compare what a garden today looks like compared to during the world wars.
- Children will understand the context of living during a historical event.

## MATERIALS:

- Pencil
- Paper
- Crayons/markers/colored pencils
- Printer (for pre-designed posters)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

### For children:

Victory gardens started out during World War I as a way of providing sustainable food for people in the United States during wartime. Resources were being consumed at a quicker rate during the war, and that included rations and food for the soldiers. In order to ease the burden, people were encouraged to start rationing their food portions to show support and do their part in contributing to the war effort. The government started to create posters and agencies to promote the patriotic activity of planting your own victory garden. A lot of times they were encouraging children to get involved with the activity. These efforts in all helped to start around 5 million gardens after WWI!

Once World War II started, victory gardens immediately made a resurgence. This time, the push was even stronger from the government to get people, both adults and children, involved and more successful. While the posters still remained, this time radio programs were created and newsreels showed information on how to create your own garden. The first lady Eleanor Roosevelt even planted her own garden at the white house! They promoted smart gardening as well, like only planting what you could use, only using land that was fertile enough for gardening, and planting crops that would be appropriate for the area to grow. By the end of the war, over 20 million gardens had been planted!

With the current events happening today, victory gardens have had another surge in popularity. This time however, it is a movement started by the people rather than being backed by the government. People see

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this as an opportunity to grow and harvest food from their own sources in order to lessen the amount of strain on the food production in the country. It is also less conventional now, with people trading out their backyard garden plots for planters and techniques that allow them to grow indoors or in smaller spaces.

### ACTIVITY OUTLINE:

1. Talk to your child about the background of victory gardens (using the above information) and if you would like more in depth information you can check out our [blog post](#) on the subject.
2. Make sure your child understands the context of victory gardens and why they were created.
3. Show your child examples of Victory Garden posters from [World War I](#) and [World War II](#). Some questions to talk about together might be: How are they similar? How are they different? Would this convince people today to plant a garden?
4. Gather the coloring materials and paper required to complete the Victory Garden poster worksheet.

### ADAPTATION FOR EACH GRADE:

- For 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, creating your own victory garden poster design is a good alternative to simply coloring in the pages given.

### EXTENSIONS:

1. Older children can take a deeper dive into primary sources! Here's a [cool pamphlet](#) on how to create a Victory Garden from start to finish!
2. Now that you've created your own victory garden poster, time to go to activity 2!



# History of Victory Gardens Worksheet

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## Let's get Coloring:

- Gather up your coloring materials and print out the pages given to you below.
- Try to use colors that have a theme such as colors you would see in a garden, colors that represent Ohio, or patriotic colors!

## Design your own Victory Garden poster:

- An important part of victory gardens is that they inspire people to contribute to not only themselves but to their community, state, or country!
- With that in mind, create your own victory garden poster!
- Your poster should include something mentioned above such as representation of your community, or your state. You could even include images of fruits and vegetables that you are currently growing or could grow for your own victory garden.

*Your*  
**VICTORY  
GARDEN**

*Counts more  
than ever!*

2020

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# PLANT A VICTORY



# GARDEN

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**PROTECT THIS**

**VICTORY**

**GARDEN**

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*Your*  
VICTORY  
GARDEN

An outline map of the state of Ohio is positioned behind the text. The word "Your" is written in a cursive font above the map, and "VICTORY" and "GARDEN" are written in large, bold, sans-serif block letters across the map.

*Counts more  
than ever!*

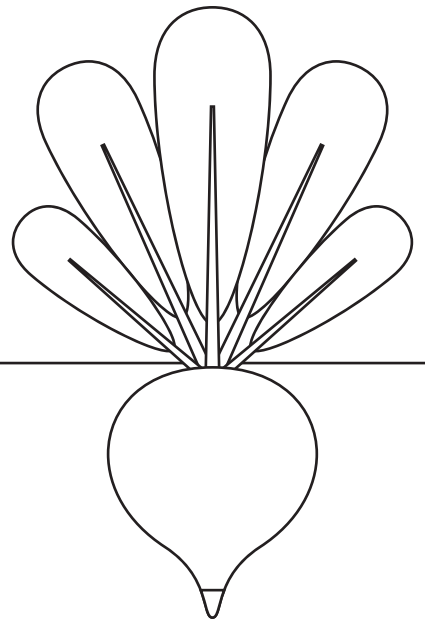
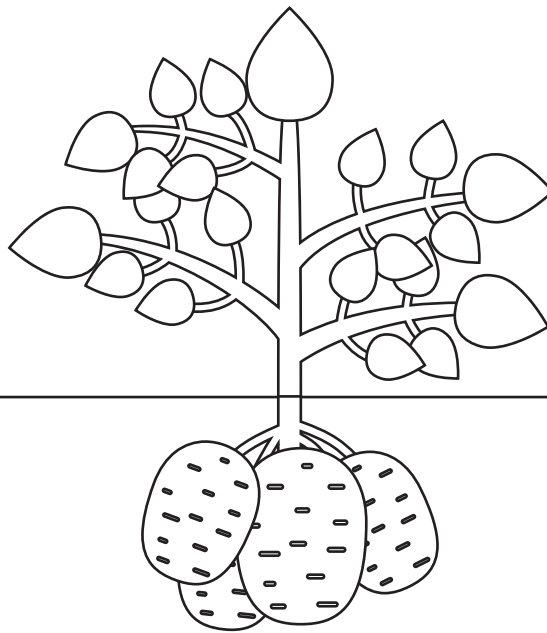
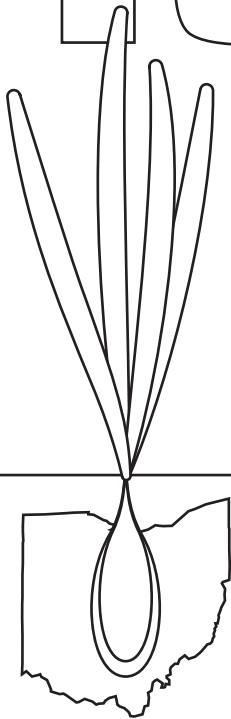
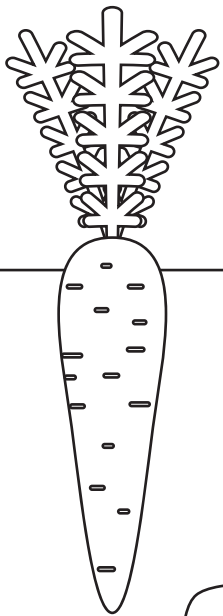
A large, stylized outline of a leaf is positioned behind the text. The leaf has a prominent central vein and several smaller veins branching off it. The text "Counts more than ever!" is written in a cursive font across the leaf.

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# PLANT A VICTORY



# GARDEN

PROTECT THIS

VICTORY

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