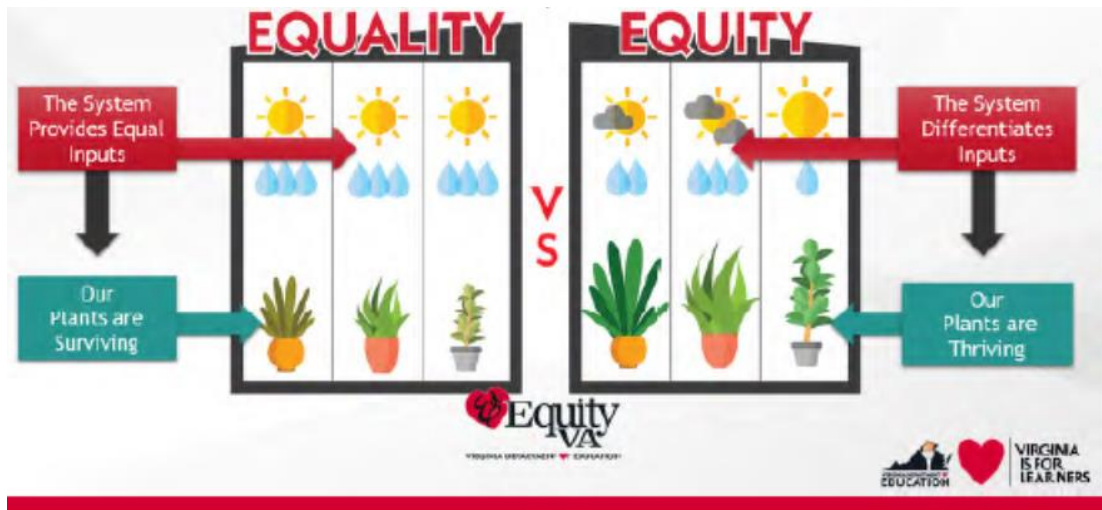


Equity vs Equality - Using plants as an example

Goal:

- Through discussion and possibly experiments with seeds or plants, Girl Scouts will learn the difference between Equity and Equality.
- They will be able to discuss how this difference in plant needs is like what people need in order to flourish.



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Overview:

Plants all different needs in order to grow well. Differences include things such as:

- Depth of seed in soil
- Amount of sunlight
- Amount of water
- Temperature differences
- Soil types

When plants with different needs are cared for equally, one may flourish, but the other may merely survive, or fail to grow. When plants are treated equitably, i.e. given the proper amount of water, sunlight most likely they will thrive.

Just as plants need to be cared for differently, there are times that people require different “care” in order to thrive.

Activity ideas: Review what plants need in order to grow, and when working with more than one, provide or have youth seek out each plant’s needs.

Start two different types of seeds and plant at the same depth. In another tray, start each seed at its required depth.

Using two different types of plants (shade and sun loving), place them in the same type of light. Observe what happens.

Water two different types of plants (Cactus or succulent & regular plant) with equal amounts of water. With a pair of similar plants, water each equitably, according to its need.

Talking points:

- What do we expect will happen when these plants are treated equally? When treated Equitably?
- Can you explain why the equitably treated plants grew better?
- How are the plants like people, in their varying needs? What is an example of something that is a different need for a person or group of people?

Related Resources

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/teaching-concept-equity-through-gardening>