Trade Books
Title: Berenstain Bears: Grow It
Genre: Modern Fantasy
Author: Stan and Jan Berenstain
Reading Level: 430 Lexile (2nd Grade)

Synopsis:

Brother and Sister Bear had promised Mama Bear they would help her plant the garden. They did not want to at first, then they discovered the importance of plants. They started to grow plants instead of playing with their friends.

Standard:
2.1.2 Use tools — such as thermometers, magnifiers, rulers, or balances — to gain more information about objects.

Activity:
Have the students plant flower seeds and record the growth.

http://www.eduref.org/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Science/Agriculture/AGR0010.html

Standard:

Activity:
Have the students decorate a flower pot.
Title: Weslandia
Author: Paul Fleischman
Reading Level: 820 Lexile (Grade)

Genre: Modern Fantasy

Synopsis:
A unique boy named Wesley decides to turn over a plot of earth in his yard one summer. Plants begin to grow and start to bear a curious looking fruit. As he experiments, he discovers the plants will provide him with food, clothing, shelter, and even recreation. He names his civilization “Weslandia.”

Activity:
Have each student brainstorm how they would develop their own civilization. Have them each write in their journals how their civilization would function including listing their staple crop and what this crop would provide for them. Have them draw a picture of the civilization they develop as well.

Activity:
Have the students develop a tribal language. Have them include an alphabet for new language. Also, have them write down at least five words using their alphabet system.
Title: How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning        Genre: Historical Fiction
Author: Rosalyn Schanzer
Reading Level: 910 Lexile (6th Grade)

Synopsis:

Standard:

Activity:

1. Give each student a balloon or put students into small groups and have them share the balloons. Whatever method fits your class better.
2. Have the students blow up the balloon and tie the end together.
3. Tell the students to rub the balloon on their hair.
4. Explain to the students that some of the electrons from their hair move to the atoms on the balloon. The balloon now has more electrons. This is causing it to have a negative charge. Their hair has more protons than electrons. This is giving their hair a positive charge. When the protons and electrons are unequal, static electricity is produced. Static electricity is the charge on an object that has an unequal number of protons and electrons. Static electricity is causing their hair to stick up.
5. Allow the students a chance to experiment with balloon. Have them try to stick the balloon to their clothes or the wall.
6. Have the students write down two examples of static electricity.
7. Ask the students to explain why their hair was sticking to the balloon.

(I got this idea from this website: http://www.eduref.org/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Science/Physics/PHS0003.html)

Standard:

Activity:

1. Divide the class into groups of three to four students.
2. Each group will invent a product for sale. This product may be a new type of clothing, a new brand of toothpaste, or some unusual, unique item.
3. Each group will write a television commercial for the new product. The script must have enough parts for every member of the group to participate.
4. Each student will make a stick puppet of his/her commercial character.
5. Each group will give a puppet presentation of the commercial. A video will be made of each presentation.

6. As a follow-up activity show the video and ask the following questions about each commercial for discussion.

   (1) What did you like best about the commercial?
   (2) Do you think it will sell?
   (3) Can you think of another use for the product other than the one advertised?
   (4) Is there any part that can be changed to make a different product?

(I got this idea from this website: http://www.eduref.org/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Interdisciplinary/INT0031.html)
Title: Once Upon a Cloud  
Genre: Modern Fantasy  
Author: Rob D. Walker  
Reading Level:

Synopsis:

Standard:

Activity:

http://www.eduref.org/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Science/Meteorology/MET0004.html

Standard:

Activity:

http://www.eduref.org/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Science/Meteorology/MET0203.html

http://www.eduref.org/