

Microclimate Garden: Guiding Questions

- What factors affect microclimates?
- How did microclimate conditions affect bloom times?
- What kinds of differences do you think we would find if we made our observations over a longer period of time?
- How could you change microclimate conditions?
- Why are some areas on our schoolyard warmer/cooler, wetter/drier, windier, sunny/shady?
- Where would you plant bulbs to test the amount of sunlight tulips need to grow?
- What was the warmest place? What factors make it warm?
- What was the coolest place? What do you think keeps it cool?
- How did your findings compare with your predictions?
- Do you think the temperature differences in various locations will change over the course of a day? Why or why not?
- Why do you think temperatures can differ in places that are not far apart? What factors cause the difference in temperatures?
- How do you think different microclimates affect plant growth?
- Are temperatures in your garden generally warmer or cooler than the temperatures reported in the newspaper?
 - If they are different, by how many degrees, on average, do they vary? Why do you think this is true?
- How well do you think your garden represents the climate of your area? Explain your thinking.