Dinner Menu- Photosynthesis

Appetizer

(Everyone does this)
Write the chemical equation for photosynthesis

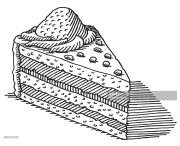
Entrée

(Pick one)
Draw a picture that shows what happens during photosynthesis.
Write two paragraphs about what happens during photosynthesis
Create a rap or song that explains what happens during photosynthesis (can be done and shared with a partner).
Your own idea (approved by teacher)

Side dishes

(Pick at least two)
Define respiration (written).
Compare photosynthesis to respiration using a Venn diagram.
Write a journal entry describing photosynthesis from the point of view of a green plant.
Create and perform a skit that shows the differences between photosynthesis and respiration (can be done and shared with a partner).
Your own idea (approved by teacher)

Dessert



(Everyone does this)
Create a quiz for other students using the other items you've created for this
Your own idea (approved by teacher)

This activity gives students a chance to blend their creativity and imaginations with one of the most important processes on Earth: photosynthesis. The format is one of a menu where the students choose what they want to do. It can be used for a myriad of topics.

The appetizer is the foundation for everything else on the menu, which is why everyone must do it.
The entrée is the main concept. Students get their choice
The side dishes accompany and enhance the entrée. Students generally must choose more than one.
Dessert can be optional but what kid ever turns down a dessert.

I also usually included something a student could think of on their own. My adult brain didn't always think along the same lines as my students. This gave them the opportunity to apply skills and talents they may have to the assignment and they weren't necessarily limited to just my ideas. However, I always included the condition that I had to approve anything they wanted to do that wasn't my idea.

"No, I'm not interested in your list of endangered vegetables. Just eat your dinner."

This activity aligns with Indiana 6th grade science standard MS-LS1-6 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Essential Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for the role of photosynthesis in the cycling of matter and flow of energy into and out of organisms. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on tracing movement of matter and flow of energy.]