

Germinating Bean and Pea Seeds

Age/Grade Range

- Ages: 5-15+

Group Size

- No maximum or minimum

Time

- Set-up: 5 minutes
- Activity: 20 minutes + 2 weeks

Materials

- Bean and/or pea seeds, 3 or 4 per child (this activity can be done with other seeds, but beans and pea seed work best)
- Clear glass mason jars or clear plastic cups, 1 per child
- Paper towel
- Masking tape and marker
- Spray bottle or other watering device

Set Up

1. Set up materials
2. Watch the instructional video (4 minutes) for this activity:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9SWwnWe0VQ>

Activity Directions

1. With masking tape, get the children to write their name, type of seed and date on the side of the jar or cup.
2. Fill the inside of the jar with paper towels. There should be enough paper towels in the jar that they are snug against the sides of the jar.
3. Pour or mist water into the paper towels until they are all moist, but there is no standing water in the bottom of the jar. Pour out any standing water.
4. Place a seed between the paper towel and the side of the jar, so that the seed is visible through the glass. Repeat with 2 or 3 more seeds, spaced out in the jar.
5. Set cups in a sunny place, that is away from any cold drafts.



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Topic

- Local Food Production

Objective

- See first-hand how seeds germinate and start to grow



6. Over the next 2 weeks, observe the seeds every couple of days. Get the children to note or draw the changes in the seeds.
7. Keep the paper towels damp as they dry out over the 2 weeks.
8. After 2 weeks, the seeds can be transplanted planted into small pots

Extension

- This activity can be paired with lessons about seed biology