



Seed Starting

Students learn about seeds and experiment with how they germinate and grow.

Goal

Students will observe germination of different types of seeds and learn how to transplant seedlings into soil.



Materials

- three jars
- three different seeds of choice (enough for each student to have one of each seed)
- plastic sandwich bags (one per student)
- permanent marker
- markers
- cotton balls
- spray bottle with water
- labels

Preparation

Refer to the planting directions on seed packets to determine which seeds will work best for your current season and choose three varieties to plant. Using a permanent marker, draw two vertical lines on each plastic sandwich bag to make three equal sections (this step can also be completed by students).

Vocabulary

germinate: to put forth shoots; sprout

transplant: to remove a plant from one place and plant it in another



Seed Starting

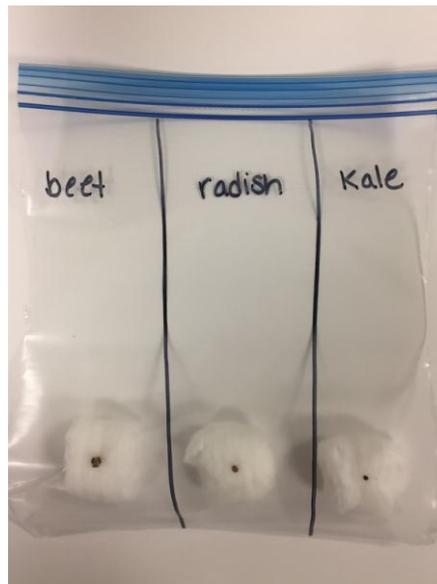
Activities

Class Demonstration and Discussion

Display each of the seed varieties inside a jar without any labels. Write or draw the mature fruit or vegetable on the board for each type of seed. Have the students observe the jars and try to match the mature fruit to the seeds for each jar. Afterwards discuss what a seed needs in order to grow.

Activity

Give each student three cotton balls, three different seeds, and a plastic sandwich bag. Have the students spray the cotton ball with water and place their seed in the middle of the cotton ball. Then have the students place the damp cotton balls with seeds inside the bag and label each section. Place by the window (or tape the bag to the window) in direct sunlight. Have the students write down and/or draw observations and compare and contrast plant growth each day.



Transplant Seedlings

Students can transplant their seedlings directly into the school garden or transfer them into an empty paper egg carton. Use scissors to cut the carton into individual cells. Fill each cell with soil. Transfer each seedling into an individual cell. Egg carton cells will decompose so they can be planted directly in the garden. Refer to the directions on the seed packet for how far apart to space seedlings.