

A Cup with a View

FIRST GRADE

In this tried and true observation activity, students make predictions and record observations while comparing and contrasting subtle changes that occur while growing a seed in a clear plastic cup. As a bonus, the surviving seeds can be planted directly into a garden bed for further observation. Do this lesson **Fall through early Spring** to transplant sugar snap peas in the garden.

SUBJECT

SCIENCE

TIME

30 MIN

+

5 MIN observations every few days

MATERIALS

Book of choice from the Garden Library

Observation worksheet, 1 per student

Clear 8 oz cup, 1 per student

Small paper bag, 1 per student

Scissors, 1 per student

Permanent marker, 1 per student or several to share

Snap pea seeds, 3 per student

Potting soil, enough to fill the plastic cups

Plastic scoops, 1 per student or several to share

Spray bottles with water, several to share

DIRECTIONS

- To introduce the activity, gather students in the garden/outdoor classroom and read a book from the Garden Library; a book about seeds or germination would be a good choice.
- Tell students they are going to conduct a scientific experiment. They will make a prediction based on what they currently know and then carefully keep track of visual data.
- Hand out a permanent marker, plastic cup, a small paper bag, and the activity observation sheet.
- Tell students to use the marker and write their name on the paper bag, the plastic cup, and the observation sheet. Then write the date on the worksheet. Explain that this is important scientific information and it must match exactly.
- Cut each paper bag to the same height of the plastic cup.
- Direct students to fill their clear cup $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with soil using their hands or a plastic scoop. Then, have students press their seeds against the edge of the cup just far enough so the soil covers it.
- Gently water each seed using a spray bottle.
- Place the cup in the paper bag, so the roots are kept in the dark. Place all the bags next to a sunny window in the classroom or outside the classroom if there is no window inside.
- Every few days, have students retrieve their cup and record observations on their worksheets—regularly water so that the soil does not dry out.
- When the seedlings have sprouted and are about two inches tall, they can be transplanted to larger pots or planted in the school garden. Plant October through April.
- Return the cups to the bin for use next year to practice sustainability.

SOURCE

- BCK Programs | A Cup with a View



Observation Worksheet

Name:

Date:

Predict: How do you think the seed will change over time?

Observation 1 Date:	Draw a picture of your seed.
Observation 2 Date:	
Observation 3 Date:	
Observation 4 Date:	

What changes did you see after the final observation?

