

Pollinate This!

Start Seeds

PART 1 OF 2

SECOND GRADE

Germinating seeds in a bag is a fun way for kids to view how seeds transform into plants, a process normally hidden by soil. Seeds have everything they need to start growing under the right conditions, so as long as they have moisture, you can place them in a sunny window, and they will start sprouting right away. Students will germinate pollinator seeds to start a pollinator garden.

SUBJECT

SCIENCE

TIME

30 MIN

MATERIALS

Read aloud book about germination from the Garden Library (optional)

Sandwich size resealable plastic bags, 1 per student

Paper towels, 1 per student

Spray bottles with water, several to share

Pollinator seeds, assortment, at least a few per student

Black permanent marker, 1 per student or several to share

DIRECTIONS

- Find a shady spot in the garden and read a book about seed germination from the Garden Library (optional).
- Introduce the activity by asking students what seeds need to grow. Do they need soil? Sunlight? Water? By germinating seeds in a bag, students will be able to answer these questions definitively.
- Distribute a plastic sandwich bag and paper towel to each student. Have students write their names on the bag and then moisten the paper towel using spray bottles.
- Fold the paper towel and tuck it into the bottom of the plastic bag.
- Place several seeds inside the bag between the paper towel and the bag so that the seeds are visible from the outside. Close the bag.
- Keep the bag in a warm location, such as taping it to a sunny window. At first, seeds do not need sunlight, but once the plant has leaves, it will need sunshine to make food.
- Ask students what they should do with the seeds once they have sprouted. Suggest planting a pollinator garden, which is Part 2 of this activity.
- The seeds will sprout at different rates. Keep an eye on them every few days to see the changes and get ready for lesson Part 2 in a few weeks. Make sure the paper towels stay moist.

EXTENSION

- Track the growth of the seeds by recording the date and observations every few days. After leaves emerge, the height can be measured with a ruler every few days.

SOURCE

- BCK Programs

