

Plants Grow Children Curriculum

LESSON 1 MIRACLE OF THE SEED

Students learn about seeds and what is needed to make seeds grow. Each student gets the chance to plant a seed in a cup and watch it grow.

Grade Level

K-1

Objectives

- To learn what a seed needs to germinate, live, and grow.
- To develop an appreciation for the needs of a plant and the ability of plants to reproduce themselves.
- To develop improved manual dexterity by handling seeds.
- To develop improved skills in answering questions when comparing children to plants.

Vocabulary

seed	seed coat
plant	live
grow	plant food
fertilizer	energy
germination	

Time

30-45 minutes.

Lead Time Required

1 - 5 days to prepare materials

Activity Materials

- Cups with lids, one for each student
- 2 to 3 types of seeds for students to choose from for planting; large seeds like Scarlet Runner Beans or marigolds, with enough copies of seed packet instructions for the type of seeds each student selects
- Potting mix to fill cups
- Plastic sandwich bags to place cups in for safe transport home

- Permanent ink pen that will write on plastic

Demonstration Materials

Seed Poster with seed packets showing the plants, and their seeds, in clear plastic bags to show the different types of seeds.

Mystery Seed Poster with different seeds glued to a plain background.

Herbi, a hand puppet that demonstrates seed germination and growth. The puppet has a seed coat, primary and secondary leaves, a flower, and a seed pod attached with velcro.

Teaching Procedure

1. Introduce yourself. Tell the class who you are. Explain briefly about the WSU Master Gardener Program and why you are in the classroom.
2. Tell the class they will learn about raising a plant and seeing if they can give it all it needs to live and grow. What do people need to live and grow? [Food, shelter, sun, fresh air, and water.] Plants need the same things.
3. Can you think of some seeds that we can eat? [popcorn, peas, nuts, peanuts, peanut butter, corn, beans, etc.]
4. Show Seed Poster. What's the biggest and smallest seeds that you can think of? [Big: coconut, avocado pit, peach pit, walnut, acorn, etc. Small: apple, sesame, etc.]
5. Show Mystery Seed Poster. Children all look different from each other; so do seeds. Can you guess what kind of seeds these are? [Answers on back of poster.]

Discussion

Compare each thing that a child

needs to survive to what a plant needs. Show a seed. There is a baby plant in that seed. [germination (birth)] What does the seed need to germinate? [Warmth, moisture, and energy (food)] What does that seed need to grow? [Soil for nutrients and support, sunlight for energy (food), water, and air.]

Action Learning

1. Distribute cups (or some type of waterproof container) to each student. Have the students punch a hole in the cup bottom. Help the students fill the cups with potting soil or fill them before class to save time. In small groups of 3 to 5, let the students choose the type of seed they would like to grow. Then help them plant the seeds, using their fingers or a pencil to make the planting hole in the cups.
2. Help students put lids on the cups and then put them in a plastic bag. Provide a copy of the seed packet instructions to each student. Write students names on the bags with permanent ink.
3. The students may take the seed and cup home that day, or leave them on a tray at school to observe germination and growth with their teacher.
4. Give each student the take-home handout. It briefly explains what the children learned about and tells about WSU Cooperative Extension and its programs.

Evaluation

- Make notes of successes, problems with the unit or classes, interesting comments from the children.
- Take a camera with you if it is convenient to take pictures of the students and their activity.
- Give the teacher the evaluation

form. Ask her or him to fill it out and either give it to you then, or mail it to the Extension office at the address indicated on the evaluation form.



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