

Plant Investigation

Do you want to conduct your own plant investigation? Let's get started!

Seeds come in all shapes, sizes, and types. There are some seeds that are so tiny, they look like dust. Other seeds, though, can be as big as a basketball! Seeds remain asleep until they are given soil, water, and light. In fact, all plants need certain things to grow, including room to grow, the right temperature, light, water, air, nutrients, and time.

Have you ever wondered how a seed becomes a plant? Now is your chance to find out! You get to grow a plant from a seed!

What you need:

- 6-8 seeds (see note below)
- 3-4 paper cups (or other small containers)
- One small plastic lid per cup (to catch the water)
- Soil
- Pencil

Note: If you are using seeds from a seed packet, follow the planting instructions on the packet. You can use dried beans from the cupboard, but you may want to soak them in water for a couple of hours first.

What to do:

1. Place the paper cup on a table covered with newspaper to protect the table. (You could also work outside.)
2. Poke a hole in the bottom of the cup with a pencil.
3. Fill the cup almost full with soil.
4. Make a couple of holes in the soil with your finger or pencil.
5. Place one or two seeds in the hole and cover them with soil.
6. Place a plastic lid under the paper cup, water the seeds, and place the cup in a sunny spot.
7. Water the soil when it looks dry. If you stick your finger one inch into the soil and it feels dry, then water the plant. When you water the plant, moisten the soil by using enough water so that it starts to come out of the hole in the bottom of the cup.
8. Remember that it takes time to grow and care for plants. Some plants require more time to grow than others.

Note: These directions are guidelines for planting and caring for the seed and plant. You should follow the directions that come with your seeds for the best results.

Be sure to share your plant observations at: <http://seeds.sciencenetlinks.com/>.

