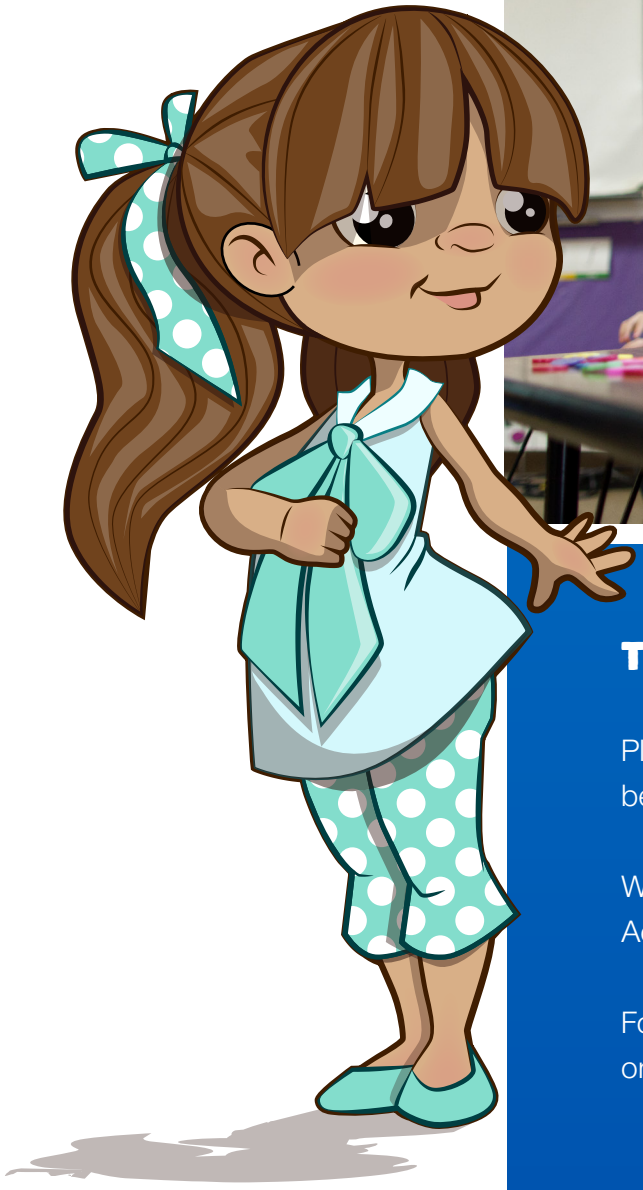

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AIMS™ Education Foundation

Topic
Plants

Key Question
How do my seeds grow?

Learning Goal
Students will observe and record the growth of seeds.

Guiding Documents
Project 2061 Benchmarks
- *Describing things as accurately as possible is important in science because it enables people to compare their observations with those of others.*
- *Plants and animals both need to take in water, and animals need to take in food. In addition, plants need light.*

NRC Standard
- *Organisms have basic needs. For example, animals need air, water, and food; plants require air, water, nutrients, and light. Organisms can survive only in environments in which their needs can be met. The world has many different environments, and distinct environments support the life of different types of organisms.*

Science
Life science
plant growth

Integrated Processes
Observing
Comparing and contrasting
Communicating

Materials
Seeds (lima, corn, radish)
Potting soil
Daily log
Container (see *Management 1)*
Watering container or misting bottle

Background Information
Seeds start to grow when conditions are right to support the needs of growing plants. Water, air, and proper temperature are all necessary for seed growth. Germination rates vary according to type of seed used, the amount of water given, and the temperature.

Management
1. Each student should have a container in which to plant a seed. Styrofoam cups, plastic cups, and milk cartons all work well.
2. Prepare a daily log for each child. Duplicate several of the recording pages. Cut the papers in half and staple them inside the cover to make a logbook.
3. Misting bottles will help to prevent students from overwatering their plants.
4. By using a variety of different types of seeds, students can compare the germination rates. They can also compare what the various plants look like.

Procedure
1. Ask the *Key Question* and state the *Learning Goal.*
2. Distribute the materials and the page of instructions.
3. Direct the students to follow the directions to plant their seeds. Caution students against overwatering.
4. Have students assemble their daily logs.
5. Explain to students that when their seeds sprout and grow above the soil, they will start recording the growth by drawing and writing their observations.
6. Have students continue to record their observations every few days.

Connecting Learning
1. How many days did it take for your seeds to sprout?
2. Did they all sprout on the same day? Explain.
3. What did the sprouts look like?
4. Who else had plants like yours? How did you know they were the same?
5. How many different types of plants did we use?
6. Did we have any plants that didn't sprout? What might have caused that?
7. What are you wondering now?

A Plant Begins

Key Question

How do my seeds grow?

Learning Goal

Students will:

observe and record the growth of seeds.

A Plant Begins

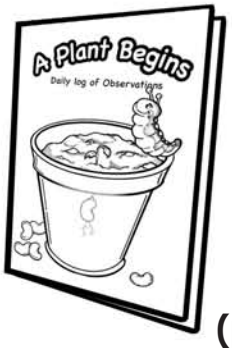
You will need:

Seeds

(lima, corn, or radish)

Potting soil

Daily Log



Container

(plastic pot, Styrofoam cup, or milk carton)

Do this:

1. **Fill the pot with potting soil.**
2. **Plant the seeds.**
3. **Keep the soil moist.**
4. **Make your daily log.**
5. **When the seeds sprout and grow above the soil, start recording the growth by drawing and writing your observations.**
6. **Continue recording observations every few days.**

A Plant Begins

Daily Log of Observations

by _____

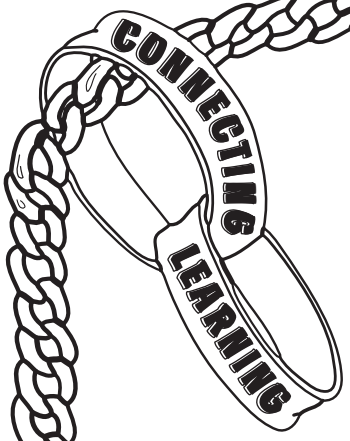
-Fold Here-

Drawing

Day

Observation Log

Day



Connecting Learning

1. How many days did it take for your seeds to sprout?
2. Did they all sprout on the same day? Explain.
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