

What is a Seed?

Third Grade



Location

Any Outdoor Location Where Seeds Can Be Found

Activity Length

30-60 minutes

Materials

Seed Journal Sheets

White Socks

Hand Lenses

Glue or Tape (used to affix seeds to paper)

Ruler

Preparation

None

Activity

- Discuss the parts of a seed. (see attached info sheet)
- Gather seeds. For some extra outdoor active fun, you can try having students collect seeds by wearing white socks while walking in the area. Seeds will stick to the bottoms of the socks!
- Compare seeds.
- Complete "Seed Journal" worksheet. (attached)

Standards Connections

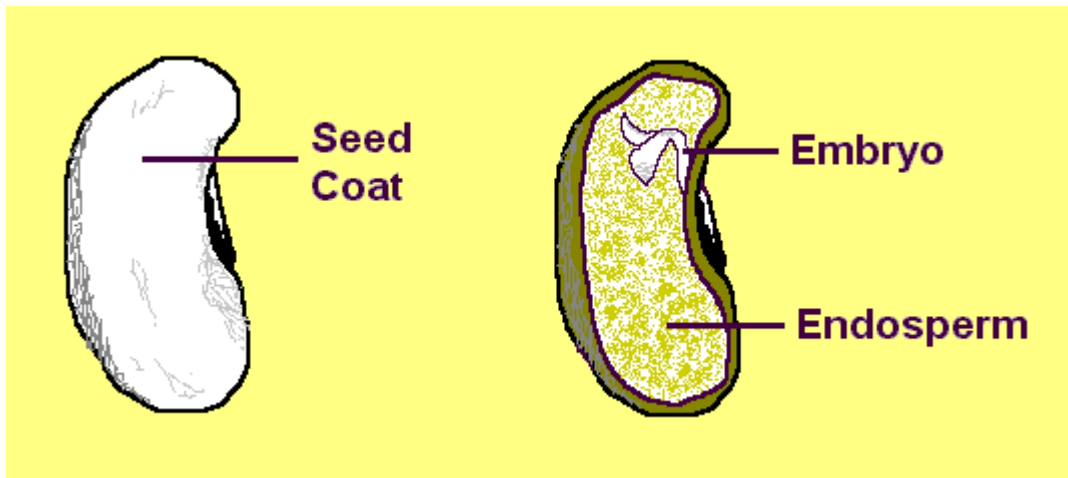
- *Next Generation Science Standards*
3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2
- *NRC Framework*
Scientific & Engineering Practices: 4, 6
Crosscutting Concepts: 1, 2
Disciplinary Core Ideas: LS3-A, LS3-B
- *Common Core State Standards*
Mathematics: MP.2, MP.4

Compiled by FRJUSD teachers and Spring Rivers Foundation.



Parts of the Seed

Plant seeds come from flowers and fruits in many shapes and sizes. The fruit of a plant contains many seeds. Think about the number of seeds in a watermelon. When the fruit leaves the plant, it starts to decay. This allows the seeds inside to reach the soil where they can grow into new plants. These seeds are sometimes pushed into the soil by rain. Animals like squirrels and chipmunks bury seeds as well.



Look at the diagram of the seed. When seeds are planted in the soil they absorb water. As temperatures become warmer the cells of the embryo inside the seed begin to divide and the embryo grows. The embryo uses the stored food within the endosperm to grow and it eventually breaks through the seed coat. The roots sprout and it is now a new plant. The sprouting of a new plant is called germination.

The roots of this new plant take in minerals and water to help it grow. As the stem grows up, leaves begin to appear. The leaves help the plant make its own food. The plant becomes an adult plant that will develop flowers. The flowers develop seeds and the reproduction cycle begins again.

Name _____ Date _____

Comparing Seeds

Name of Plant
Number of Seeds
Seed Type
Seed Measurements
Drawing or Seed Sample

Name of Plant
Number of Seeds
Seed Type
Seed Measurements
Drawing or Seed Sample

Name of Plant
Number of Seeds
Seed Type
Seed Measurements
Drawing or Seed Sample

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