

GARDENING CAMP

DAY FOUR: SPECTACULAR SEEDS



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SPECTACULAR SEEDS

Welcome to Gardening Camp Day Four!

Seeds are the foundation of all plant life! Each tiny seed has the power to grow an entire plant, given the right conditions. What exactly is a seed? A seed is a small object produced from a plant from which a new plant can grow.

Seeds remain inactive until conditions are right for them to grow, or germinate. When a seed is exposed to proper conditions for germination, water is taken in through the seed coat. The embryo's cells begin to enlarge and the seed coat breaks open. The root emergest first, followed by the shoot, which contains the stem and leaves.

Expert gardeners conduct something called a germination to determine which seeds they should plant. A germination test is a way of determining if your seeds are still viable, or good to plant.

Today, you are going to start the process of conducting your own germination test! Find a variety of seeds, both old and new. At the end of the activity, share your test with us on FlipGrid and let us know what you learned on the Microsoft Form linked below. For more information or to learn more about seed germination, check out Penn State Extension's Seed and Seedling Biology fact sheet! <https://extension.psu.edu/seed-and-seedling-biology>

Materials:

- Two Plastic Bags
- Marker
- Paper Towels
- Two Seed Packets
- Water
- Tape

Instructions:

- Label the bags with what type of seed being germinated and the year they were packaged.
- Dampen a paper towel with water and place about 10 of the same seeds across the top half.
- Fold the paper towel in half, covering the seeds, and place it in the plastic bag.
- Repeat the previous steps for the second packet of seeds.
- Tape your bags to a window to allow your seeds to get plenty of sunlight.
- Check back in a few days to see if your seeds have sprouted!

What Now?

After your seeds have germinated (sprouted), you'll want to calculate the germination rate. To find the germination rate, divide the number of seeds germinated over the number of seeds planted (this would be 10 in our case) and times the number by 100. The result will give you a percent! The closer your percent is to 100, the more viable your seeds are.

Need Inspiration?

If you need ideas for what to grow in your own garden at home, check out this virtual tour of the Oklahoma State University Botanical Gardens!

https://youtu.be/ajt_u402gVM

Resources:

KidsGardening.Org Germination Exploration

