



GROWING LETTERS

Grade Level

K-5

Length of Lesson

30 minutes

Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will have a better understanding of the factors of plant growth.

Materials

- Plant seeds
- Cookie sheets or foil baking trays
- Glue sticks
- Crayons
- Construction paper
- Water bottle
- Sealable plastic Baggies

Standards

NGSS

K-LS1-1; K-ESS2-2; K-ESS3-1; 2-LS2-1; 3-LS4-3

Lesson Summary

This lesson is designed to help students strengthen their understanding of seed germination and what factors might encourage and discourage plant growth.

Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Read [The Tiny Seed](#) by Eric Carle to capture student interest and talk about how plants grow.
2. Read through the one of our [Pollinator-themed non-fiction text resources](#) to learn about native IL plants and pollinators. Interactive online versions can be found on our website.
3. Complete the activity following the procedures:
 - Cut sheets of construction paper in half length-wise. Each student receives a 1/2 piece of paper. Pour the plant seeds into the cookie sheets/foil baking trays.
 - Next, write each student's name (or just the first letter of their name) on the construction paper strip using the crayons. Older students can write their own name.
 - Give each student their piece of construction paper and a stick of glue. Have students trace their names with the glue stick.
 - Have them place their pieces of construction paper name-side down, into the plant seeds. Then pick it up and gently shake off any extra seeds.
 - Set to the side to let the glue dry.
 - Once the glue is dried, place the projects in sealable plastic baggies and spritz the paper with water so that the paper is damp but not soaking. The seeds should be kept damp to ensure growth. Seal up the baggie and tape it to a window, chalkboard, or wall.
4. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity.

TEACHER RESOURCES

Extension Ideas

- Small seeds like radishes, carrots or even grass seeds work really well for this activity.
- Have students choose a current vocabulary word that they've learned instead of their name.
- Have students keep an observation journal where they can draw or write what their name looks like as it grows.
- Learn about the water cycle as the water from misting the paper will begin to go through the steps.
- Read Dr. Seuss' "Oh Say Can You Seed" by Bonnie Worth and discuss the different parts of plants. Have students record unknown words as you read and go back to look up definitions.
- Have students create a comic strip showing the process of germination.
- Have students write a story from the seed's/plant's perspective.
- Show a labeled diagram of the plant(s) you're growing.
- Go to agintheclassroom.org to contact your County Ag Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of our Ag Mags!