

LESSON PLAN

Seed to Sprout

Grade band: K-2 · Estimated time: 45 minutes

A publication of Global One Urban Farming · Kansas City, MO

Learning objective

Students observe the germination of a bean seed over five days and describe the parts and needs of a growing plant.

Standards alignment

- NGSS K-LS1-1: Patterns of what plants and animals need to survive
- NGSS 2-LS2-1: Plan and conduct an investigation on plant growth
- Missouri ELA K.RI.3.A: Retell key details from an informational text

Materials

- Dried pinto beans (2 per student)
- Clear plastic cups (1 per student)
- Paper towels
- Spray bottle with water
- Student science journal (folded copy paper)
- Read-aloud: 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle

Lesson sequence

- Read 'The Tiny Seed' and ask: what does a seed need to grow?
- Fold a paper towel and place it inside the clear cup. Wedge two beans between the towel and the wall of the cup where students can see them.
- Spray the towel until damp — not soaking. Place the cups on a sunny windowsill.
- Each day for five days, students draw what they see in their journals and write one sentence.
- On day 5, gather in a circle and have each student share one change they observed.

Extension & assessment

Assess by reviewing journal entries for accurate observations of the root emerging first, then the stem, then the first leaves. Extend by transplanting sprouts into soil cups and continuing observation for two weeks.