

Activities Seeds

Seed Identification

- Group seeds by types. (Monocots, dicots)
- Learn to identify seeds by shape and color.
- Look for seeds that are in the environment. Identify and learn to name the seeds.

Parts of Seeds

- Look to see where the food for the baby plant is stored.
- Find, name, and sketch parts of a seed.
- What purpose does an elaiosome have?
- Note corn silk or string on pumpkin and squash seeds to learn how a growing seed gets nourishment.
- Notice how seeds are attached to get nutrients to grow.

Grouping Seeds by How they Travel

- Provide containers in which to display seeds that travel by wind, animal, etc.
- Take photos of seeds that are being transported in various ways.

Art Activities

- Make collages by gluing seeds to a background.
- Draw pictures to show the life cycle from seed to plant and seed again.
- Make jewelry from some seeds (beads and necklaces). Note that some seeds used in jewelry are poisonous.
- Make craft items using seeds or seed pods. Learn about the seeds and how they grow.

Mathematics Activities

- Count the number of seeds in a pod or other seed container.
- Count the number of seeds produced by one type of plant.
- Measure the size of various seeds. Learn about why some are large and some are small.
- Count kernels on a cob of corn.
- Note that seeds need to be planted at certain depths for optimum germination. Check seed packets to learn how much soil cover certain seeds need. Measure those depths.

Geography

- Place seeds on a map to show their place of origin. (Example – Corn – In what country did it originally grow.)
- Learn about the sources of seeds we eat. (Wheat, oats, nuts, etc.) Use maps to show where the seeds are grown.

History

- Read stories about how seeds have been used by Native Americans in the past and present. (Growing, collecting and preparing)
- Compare how various cultures used seeds in the past and present.

- Learn about heritage plants and their seeds.
- Learn about the development of new kinds of seeds throughout history.
- Read about the story of Johnny Appleseed. Plant apple seeds and watch them grow. Learn about how new apple varieties were developed.

Science

- Read seed packets to learn how long it takes for seeds to germinate. Plot that information on a calendar.
- Read seed packets to learn how long it takes for a plant to grow and produce leaves or fruit with more seeds.
- Sprout seeds. Note the kinds of seed leaves each plant has.
- Match seeds with plants that produce them or with pictures of those plants.
- Record the time it takes to sprout and grow seeds.
- Go to a cafeteria. Make a list of all the foods they serve in a week. Which ones have seeds as one or more of their ingredients? Do the same for meals made at home. Possible seeds that may be identified are as follows:

Wheat, rye or rice in flour that is made into pasta, breads, noodles, etc.

Oats in oatmeal or bars

Chocolate made from cacao.

Beans, peas, corn, popcorn.

Corn oil

Tomatoes

Snap peas

Green beans

- Make matching games with pictures of plants and the seeds they grow from. Use seed packets and catalogs or pictures from other sources.
- Learn about and look for examples of angiosperms (enclosed seeds) and gymnosperms (“naked seeds”).
- Look for the three parts of seeds. (Embryo, seed coat and stored food)
- Learn what spices we use come from seeds.
- Identify seeds that are planted to grow crops that feed livestock and birds.
- Learn about seeds that are used in medicine.
- Learn about seeds that contain poisons.