

KANSAS FARM BUREAU'S AG LEARNING ZONE

YOUTH ACTIVITY: GARDEN IN A GLOVE

OBJECTIVE: YOUTH WILL HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIFE CYCLE OF CROPS AND PLANTS.

Vocabulary Words

- Germination – to begin to grow (sprout)
- Produce – a general term for farm-produced crops and goods, including fruits and vegetables.
- Transplant – to move and plant in another place

Lesson

Ask youth if they've ever eaten fresh **produce** from a garden. Allow time for a short discussion.

- Display the seeds and discuss what needs to happen for them to grow into healthy plants.
- Explain that in their current condition, these seeds are dormant (or sleeping). To grow they will need light and water. To mature they need soil that contains food for plants.
- 2-3 days after introducing the seeds to water and sun, the seeds will begin getting bigger.
- In 4-5 days you will observe little sprouts (very beginning of a young plant) coming from each healthy seed and then these sprouts grow into seedlings (a new plant).
- Each seed contains enough energy to **germinate**. The seedling will have roots and will need soil. Soil provides nutrients (food) so the young plant can continue to grow.
- Reinforce that all seeds need light and water to grow. To mature they need soil that contains food for plants.

Fun Facts About Produce

- The term "produce" often means the products are fresh and grown locally.
- Plants provide food, fiber, oxygen and much more to animals and humans.

Assessments

- True or false? For seeds to grow, they need peace and quiet. False, they need light and water.
- True or false? Germination means to grow or sprout.
- True or false? Farmers and ranchers care about the environment.

Hands-on Activity

- Write your initials on the glove. You may also want to write the seed type on each finger.
- Insert a cotton ball into each finger of the glove. Lightly moisten using a spray bottle. Repeat for each finger.
- Carefully set 3-4 (of the same variety) seeds on the cotton ball in the first finger. Repeat until each variety of seed has been added to the finger you reserved for them.
- Blow up the glove then tie off the opening with a piece of yarn.
- Tape the yarn to a window (or just above it). Your seeds should germinate in 3 to 5 days.
- **Transplant** seeds in 1 ½ to 2 weeks by cutting the tips of the fingers off the glove. Set the cotton ball and small plants into soil, then throw away the glove.
- After growing to full size, plants can be made into a salad (this may take several weeks).

Suggested Resources

- Plastic gloves
- Cotton balls
- Spray bottles
- Yarn
- Markers
- Five types of seeds (your choice)