

Living Plant Necklace

A Lesson on Plant Growth



BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

American farmers and ranchers work hard each day to take care of the land, so they can provide food, fiber, and natural resources to people all over the world! With this fun activity, you will have a chance to create your own miniature farm in a necklace.

PRIOR TO THE ACTIVITY:

1. Fill a 9oz solo cup with potting soil, using your fingers, gently press the potting soil, sprinkle the dormant (“sleeping”) seeds on top of the soil and then water carefully till the soil is moist. Place in a sunny warm location.
2. In 2-3 days you will see that the seeds are swollen (to get bigger).
3. 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 baby plant).
4. Each seed contains enough energy to germinate (to begin to grow into a seedling). The seedling will have roots and then it will need soil. Soil provides nutrients (food) so the young plant can continue to grow into an adult plant.
5. The green grassy wheat can be cut back, with a pair of scissors, and will continue to grow.

Discuss that all seeds need light and water to grow. To mature they need soil that contains food for plants.

PROCEDURE:

1. Get your supplies.
2. Open your plastic bag.
3. Wet your cotton ball with water and place it in the plastic bag, but do not close the plastic bag.
4. Place two to three seeds in the plastic bag with the wet cotton ball. You should be able to see the seeds when looking from the outside. (This is when germination begins!)
5. Close the plastic bag.
6. Clip your lanyard to the top of your plastic bag, or use the holepunch and ribbon to make your own necklace.
7. Wear your living plant necklace, or hang in a sunny place at home.
8. Keep the cotton ball moist, and watch your plant grow!

LEVEL: 3rd - 5th Grade

SUBJECTS/STANDARDS:

Subject:
Science

Standards:
Science as Inquiry
Life Science

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

In this activity you will create a necklace that contains a living plant.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1 small plastic jewelers bag (approximately 1” by 2”)
- 1 cotton ball
- 1 ribbon or clip lanyard (approximately 20” long)
- 2-3 seeds
- Water
- Hole punch (if using ribbon)
- Spray Bottle with Water

SOURCE:

My American Farm—
American Farm Bureau
Foundation for Agriculture