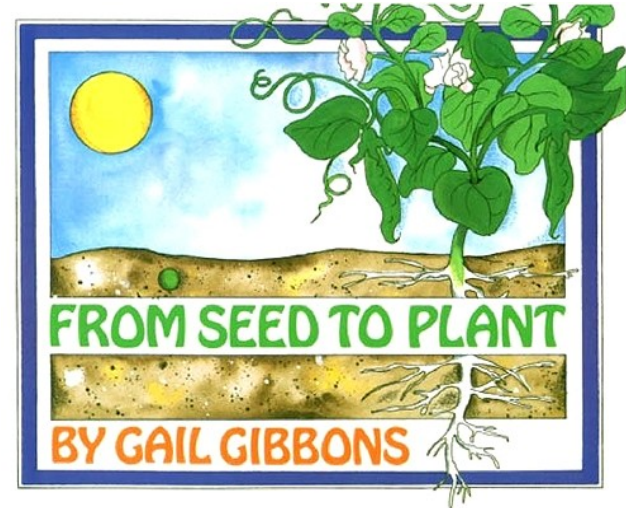


May 2016 Book of the Month
From Seed to Plant
By: Gail Gibbons

In this well-structured presentation, Gibbons explores the complex relationship between seeds and plants in a simple, concise format. This book gives young readers an interesting look into the basics of plant reproduction, pollen transference, seed dispersal and germination. A great first look at botanical science, with Gibbons' characteristically vivid illustrations. Plant this one in your science collection.



Fun Facts:

- All seeds need moisture, oxygen and the right temperature to germinate, or grow.
- Until they have these conditions, the seed remains dormant and doesn't germinate.
- Some seeds need light to germinate. Others need darkness.
- Once the seeds have the right conditions, the plant inside starts to grow and gets bigger. It pushes open the seed coat – similar to a chick hatching out of an egg. Tiny leaves appear and push out of the soil.
- Some plants, like ferns, don't produce seeds. They make spores. Look under the leaves and you'll see rows of tiny round spores. These drop off the plant and eventually grow into new plants.
- Animals often eat seeds. The undigested seeds are eliminated from the animal's body as solid waste. The seeds will drop to the ground and germinate under the right conditions to produce new plants.
- Some seeds are carried to new places by the wind.
- Seeds don't grow well if they land directly underneath the parent plant. There's not enough light, water or nutrients for germination.

Activities

Seed Jar Science Experiment:

You will need a mason jar (any jar will work) and various seeds such as sunflowers, peas and green beans. Place paper towels inside to fill the jar. Add water to the jar, but not to the top. Carefully push the seeds down into view and make sure they are snugly placed in the paper towels. (Mix it up a bit by adding different kinds of seeds). Have students observe daily to determine what happens and record findings in science journals.

Things to observe:

1. Look for the roots to pop out from the seed.
2. Look for the roots to push down.
3. Look for root hairs.
4. Watch for shoots or sprouts to come up.
5. What part of the plant took the longest time to come up?
6. What plant grew the fastest?
7. What plant grew the tallest?

Seed Sort and Match:

After reading the book, allow students time to explore different types of seeds. Provide various types of seed packs with the pictures of the plant on the package. Open each seed pack, talking about the plant from which the seed will grow into and allow students to feel and observe the seeds. Have students predict what they think the seeds will look like before you take them out. Students can feel, smell and count the seeds and determine if the number is odd or even, etc. Place seeds in a small Ziploc bag to use later. Place the seeds and packages in a center and allow students to sort and match the seeds with the correct package. Students may also choose a seed package and write facts about that type of plant.

Links:

Brain Pop Jr.

<https://educators.brainpop.com/bp-jr-topic/parts-of-a-plant/>

In this movie, you'll learn about the different parts of a plant. You'll explore how the roots hold a plant into the soil and take in nutrients and water. The stem holds up the plant, and the leaves take in light that the plant uses to make food. Some plants grow flowers. The flowers turn into fruit, which has seeds. When the fruit ripens, it falls to the

ground, and the seeds inside can grow into new plants. What's your favorite fruit to eat? Did you know that we also eat flowers, like broccoli and cauliflower?

Peppa Pig: Learning the parts of a plant.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCWHh_mZogE

Plant Parts We Eat Poster – American Farm Bureau Federation

<https://www.dmsfulfillment.com/FarmBureau/DMSStore/Product/Products>

Sources:

<http://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-germination/>

<http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/seed-jar-science-experiment-kids/>