

First Peas to the Table- Growing a Garden in Bags or Gloves

COMPARING HOW DIFFERENT KINDS OF SEEDS GERMINATE IN PLASTIC BAG OR CLEAR PLASTIC GLOVE

Materials Needed:

- Jewelry size resealable bag (found in craft stores) **OR** a clear plastic glove
- Crystal soil (found at most garden centers) **OR** moistened cotton balls
- Hole punch
- Water
- Measuring spoons
- Various types of garden seeds
- Yarn

Just like a garden has many rows of different crops and plants, you can use our Beanie Baby and Corn Baby activities as a model for growing a garden in plastic bags. This will allow you to see what the various types of seeds look like as they germinate and begin growing. Seeds that work well include corn, bean, pumpkin, melon, peas and other larger seeds.

Activity Directions: Using crystal growing soil and individual bags

1. Punch a hole in the top of your bag (above the seal).
2. Place ¼ teaspoon of crystal soil into the bag.
3. Add one tablespoon of water.
4. Gently push in two seeds.
5. Seal your bag firmly.
6. Insert the yarn to make a necklace.
7. Wear your seed necklace around your neck and under your shirt to keep it in a warm, dark place.
8. Check your seeds each day for germination and record the growth.
9. Do this for each type of seed you have.

Activity Directions: Using moistened cotton balls and clear plastic bags

1. Write your name on the glove.
2. Get the cotton ball thoroughly wet and gently squeeze so that it is not dripping wet.
3. Gently push in 2-4 seeds into each of the tips of the gloves. Have the same type of seed in each tip.
4. Blow up the plastic glove and close it with yarn or a twist tie.
5. Place the bag to a window or area that it will get some sunlight.
6. Check your seeds each day for germination and record the growth.

After several days, you'll begin to see changes in your seeds. Keep watching them as they germinate and start to grow. You can chart their growth, dissect them or try planting them!