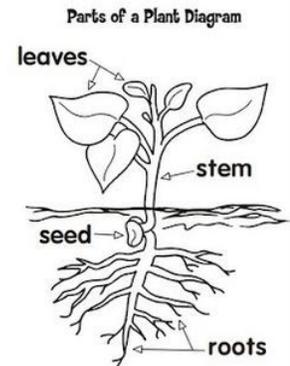


Grades: primary

The Farm at Fairplex Seed Planting and Seedling Germination

Before your visit:

- Read some books about seeds and plants. Brainstorm information to put on a tree map to help the children organize their thoughts about plants.
- Talk about the parts of a plant. Make an anchor chart that shows a drawing of a flower. Include seed, stem, leaves, and petals. Be sure to label the parts of a plant. Children should draw their own chart as you make one for the classroom. Add the things a plant needs to your drawing. Include soil, water and the sun in your picture.
- Place the following poems in pocket charts and practice daily so that the children will memorize them.



Dig a Little Hole

Dig a little hole.
Plant a little seed.
Add a little water.
Pull a little weed.
Chase a little bug...there it goes!
Give a little sunshine, and watch it grow.

What Do Plants Need? (tune: Frere Jaques)

What do plants need,
What do plants need,
to grow tall?
to grow tall?

Plants need soil,
water, air, and sun.
Watch them grow.
Watch them grow.

During your visit:

- Find the seedling area exhibit at *The Farm*. Plant a seed. Look at the different stages of plant growth.
- Choose your favorite plant in *The Farm* exhibit. How many of the plant parts can you identify?

After your visit:

- Plant seeds in a CD case. You will need potting soil, lima beans, CD cases, tape, permanent markers, and eye droppers. (This project is similar to the old favorite activity of sprouting bean seeds in a ziploc bag taped to the window. However, the seeds in CD cases are easier for the children to handle, observe, measure and label.)
 1. Put some soil in the CD case. (The hinges of the CD case should be at the top.)
 2. Plant the bean near the top of the soil.
 3. Tape the bottom of the case shut.
 4. Use a permanent marker to write names on the cases.
 5. Water as needed by using an eye dropper.
 6. When the seeds start to grow, the children can label the roots, stems, leaves, and soil with a permanent marker.
 7. As the roots and stem begin to grow, the children can measure them right through the CD case. You may want to make a chart to show the plant's growth.
- Make Plant Pals. You will need clear plastic cups, potting soil, grass seed, materials to decorate the cups (felt, permanent markers, googly eyes, etc.)
 1. Decorate the cup to look like a face. Be creative!
 2. Add potting soil.
 3. Plant grass seed.
 4. As the grass begins to grow, it will look like hair on the Plant Pal. Some of the "hair" can even be gathered into a pony tail. The children can write a descriptive paragraph telling about their Plant Pal.



Books About Flowers and Plants:

Flowers, Flowers, Flowers! A Read-Aloud to Your Kids Children's Picture Book of Flowers and Plants by Hannah Elise

From Seed to Plant by Gail Gibbons

National Geographic Reader: Seed to Plant by Kristin Baird Rattini

Planting A Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

Time for Kids: Plants! by Brenda Iasevoli

Name _____

primary tree map

plants

can

have

are

