

Ready, Set, Plant!

Wyoming Science

Objectives:

- Students will learn the basic steps a gardener takes in planting seeds and caring for plants.

Background:

Many people grow tomatoes in backyard gardens during spring and summer months. Tomatoes usually are harvested when they begin to turn red. Supermarkets don't always stock and sell locally grown tomatoes. Sometimes those tomatoes are sold at local farmers' markets.

Tomatoes have many uses. They are used as the base for many common food products such as ketchup, pizza sauce and spaghetti sauce. The average person in the U.S. consumes 70 pounds of tomatoes each year.

Activity Procedures:

1. Give each student two or three tomato seeds in a small container. Have students examine the seeds and try to identify them. Ask students what they will need to plant the seed.
2. Pour a small amount of soil onto each student's desk or into his or her hands. Have students describe the soil. What is it made of? What color is it? How does it smell?
3. Pass out planting containers (plastic or paper cups with drain holes punched in the bottom), and have students fill the containers 3/4 full with soil.
4. Have students poke holes about one inch deep into the soil in their containers and drop a seed in. Cover with a little bit of soil.
5. Provide spray bottles for students to moisten the soil in their containers. Cover with plastic wrap.
6. Have students place their plants in a sunny window and water them when soil is dry to the touch.
7. In five to ten days, a plant will emerge in each container. If more than one plant germinates, have students carefully clip off all but the healthiest plant.
8. Hand out student worksheets, and have students cut out the pictures and place them in the proper order to complete the cycle.



Standards

Science

Life Systems 1.1, 1.2, 1.3

Science As Inquiry:

2.1, 2.2B, 2.2C, 2.2E



Materials

- Tomato seeds (two or three per student)
- Paper cups with drain holes punched in bottom
- Soil
- Spray bottles
- Plastic wrap
- Activity Sheet A

Estimated Time

40 Minutes

Grades 1-2

vocabulary:

- *soil*
- *consume*
- *harvest*
- *average*
- *products*
- *germinate*

Additional Activities:

1. Have students make calendars to keep records of their plants' development.
2. Bring a scale to class. Explain to students that the average person consumes 70 pounds of tomato products each year. Have students look around the classroom and guess what objects might weigh close to that weight. Weigh different objects until you find some that come close.
3. Have students' list tomato products they have eaten in the past few days.
4. Have students look at home for tomato products and keep a progressive list.

Questions for Investigation:

- Have students describe the cycle of a tomato plant.
- Did one plant grow fast than the other plants? What might cause this - water, sun, air, or other factors?
- Have students tell a story about the tomato plant.



Materials Adapted from Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom

