



## **Germination Station**

**Primary Audience: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**Description:** Create an experiment about seed germination.

**Keywords:** seed, water, grow

### **Concepts:**

- The time it takes a seed to germinate varies from one kind of plant to the next.
- Water is essential for germination.
- The scientific method can be used to design an experiment.
- Record your observations!

### **Materials:**

- Square plastic jar
- Paper towels
- Construction paper
- Seeds of various kinds, both dicots and monocots including radish, bean (both dry and pre-soaked), sunflower, corn, grass, etc.
- Water
- Plastic wrap
- Rubber bands
- Sharpie markers
- Scissors
- Wooden skewers

**Preparation:** Soak enough bean seeds in water the night before so that every child can use them if they want to.

### **Instructions:**

1. Each child should get a plastic jar. This is a germination chamber!
2. Put a piece of construction paper around the inside of the jar. Fill the jar with paper towels. Wet the towels with water.
3. Decide what you want to test for. What do you want to find out about seeds?  
Some possibilities are:
  - Do all seeds germinate at the same time?
  - Will seeds germinate in the dark?
  - Will seeds germinate in bright light?
  - Which germinates better, dry beans or pre-soaked beans?

## Botany

Help the students by encouraging student-generated questions starting with:  
“I wonder what will happen to a seed if...”

4. Use wooden skewers to position seeds between the construction paper and the inside wall of the jar.
5. Put your name on the jar with a sharpie. Label anything else you want to on the jar.
6. Be sure to record what you did in your notebook. The “Yo Seeds, Wake Up!” form can be used for this.