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Hands-On Learning
Project Ideas • Cross Curricular Links • Activity Sheets

GP-1929

Jumbo Learn 'N Grow™ Plant Life Cycle

PACKAGE OF 12



Please read all directions before starting.

Your package contains:

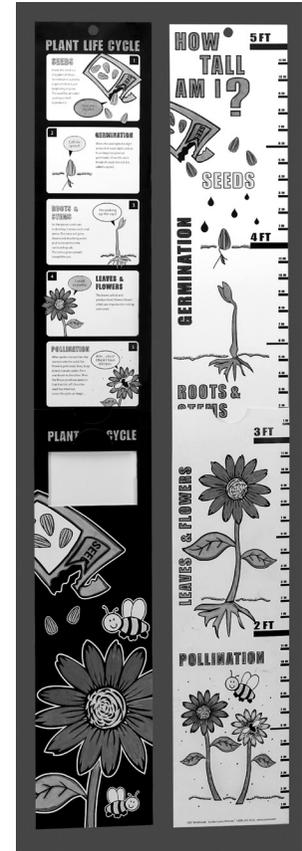
- Growth Charts
- Markers
- Tablecloth

Additional Materials You will Need:

- Tape, Tacks or Nails to mount Growth Chart
- Crayons (optional)

Instructions:

Both the outside and inner slide may be colored, as you are reviewing the different stages of a plant. After completing the growth chart, secure it by using the hook and tab. Place it one foot above the floor and mount with tape, tack or nail.



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Teaching Activities Inside

Science/Language Arts

Science Standards:

Grade K: Objects have properties that can be observed and used to describe similarities and differences.

Grade 1: Living things have different structures and behaviors that allow them to meet their basic needs. Organisms change in form and behavior as part of their life cycles. The properties of materials and organisms can be described more accurately through the use of standard measuring units.

Grade 2: Plants change form as part of their life cycles. Human beings, like all other living things, have special nutritional needs for survival.

Grade 3: Organisms can survive and grow only in environments that meet their basic needs. Earth materials provide resources for all living things but these resources are limited and should be conserved.

Planting New Ideas:

Use the senses and measuring tools to observe changes in the plants over a period of time. Divide categories into size, shape, color and weight.

Choose to grow 3 or 4 different kinds of plants in the room to show the differences in leaves, stems, height, flowers or seeds on the plant.

Grow several plants in containers and separate the pots, with some in the sun, some in the shade, some in darkness, some with water and without water, to demonstrate the needs of plants in order to grow.

Brainstorm with students about all the different kinds of plants and flowers they know and write the list on a

piece of chart paper. Ask: "Did you know that even the tallest pine tree starts out as just a tiny seed? Have you ever seen a small tree? Where did you see it?" Encourage children to look around the schoolyard and their neighborhoods for new growth. Tell them that even seedlings can grow in all sorts of environments, even between the cracks of a sidewalk or between rocks! If possible, dig up some seedlings for them to inspect with magnifying glasses and examine each part of the plant up close. Explain that seedlings come from full-grown trees, or "Mama" trees, and travel by the wind or animals that bury and or deposit seeds by their droppings.

All About Seeds

Focus on the pollination process, specifically the seeds. Soak lima beans in water overnight. Use a hand lens to have students examine the outside of the seed. Have them try to peel off the seed covering. Say: "You wear a coat to keep you from the cold. Seeds from flowering plants have seed coats to protect them, too." Split the seed in halves. Show them the parts displayed in the chart. Draw the lima bean and write the names of the parts of the seed like the seed coat, food supply and tiny plant.

Words, Words, Words!

Create a word search or word puzzle using plant parts words or just plant-related words. Or have students create the puzzle and exchange it with a neighbor.

Math

All Shapes and Sizes

Bring in seeds from all kinds of plants: acorns, sunflower, carrots, rice, watermelon, nuts, etc. Do an estimating activity. Let the children guess which seeds will fill more of a small cup.

Once you're done, turn math into art by having the students create cool seed collages! You can also ask students to bring in leaves of all different sizes, measure them, then record your findings on the board.

Arts/Writing

Study the Stages from Seed to Bloom For a week's worth of day-to-day drawings, have students sketch and color all the different stages of a plant's lifecycle. They can make them simple or complex, like adding bees to their "pollination" picture. As children create their art, discuss each stage. You may choose to take them step-by-step through each process. For example, for the "germination" process, draw the earth, the seed beneath the soil and the beginning roots on the board. Have the students follow your lead, finally adding the sun, clouds, rain and raindrops to illustrate what makes plants grow. You can have them add labels to the pictures, like the parts of a flower.

Write a Poem

Write a descriptive poem about plants or flowers. Brainstorm a list of words that best describe the plant/flower, i.e., "green," "bright," "tall," "small." Encourage students to think about color, shape and height when describ-

ing the flower. Make a list of words on the board for students to use in their poems. The teacher may decide on a specific poetry style (i.e. shape, name, limerick – a funny 5-line poem rhyming lines 1, 2, and 5 and rhyming lines 3 and 4 or a Haiku – a 3-line poem with 5 syllables in the first and last line and 7 syllables in the middle line). Have students work individually or in groups of three or four when writing the poem. When they're finished, students can draw and color a picture that illustrates the poem.

A World Without Plants?

Talk about what the world would be like without plants, like the desert. Tell students how plants contribute to our environment: oxygen, carbon dioxide, cycle of nature, food and mulch. Then have them write stories about life in a world without plants and animals. Have them explore what benefits people and animals get from plants. Discuss fibers, food, medicine, wood, fuel and more. Say: "Even the paper you're writing on comes from a plant!"