My Little Seed House and Seed Book

Integrated Core

Purpose
This activity provides students with a guided observation of the growth and development of seeds.

Time: 90 minutes
Level: Elementary

Materials
- “Seed House” blackline master
- One packet of seeds for each student (classroom seed sets are available through Utah Agriculture in the Classroom)
- Ziploc® bags
- Cotton balls
- Spray bottle with water
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Rubber Bands (one per student)
- Plain paper (one sheet per student)
- “The Tiny Seed” worksheet for every student
- “The Tiny Seed” written by Eric Carle
- “Growing Plants” songs overhead transparency

Background
A seed is the start of a new plant. Seeds are covered in a seed coat that keeps the tiny leaves and roots inside safe from harm. A seed contains food for the new plant to use until it grows big enough to reach sunlight and the plant can make its own food. A plant’s growth is dependant upon soil, temperature, and light.

Activity Procedures
1. Read “The Tiny Seed” by Eric Carle with the students.
2. Show a Seed House as a model (see picture at left).
3. Hand out the seed packets and have the students make their Seed Houses.
   a. Color the frame of the Seed House.
   b. Cut out the Seed House.
   c. Moisten the cotton balls with water and place in the plastic bag.
   d. Place seeds on the cotton balls.
   e. Close the bag and staple on the frame of the Seed House.
   Note: The seeds should be showing on the front of the house. Any remaining seeds can be planted in an outdoor garden, indoors in peat pots, or sent home for the students’ family to plant.
4. Create the Seed Book (right) that students can use to document their observations of their seed house.
   a. Using the packet that the seeds came in, cut the top, bottom, and right side so that the packet opens up like a book with the plant picture on the front cover.
   b. Ask students cut their paper so that it is the same height and double the length of the seed packet. Then, fold it in half so that it fits inside the packet.
   c. Have student add the pages to their seed book by using a rubber band to secure the middle of the pages against the left side of the book.
5. Complete “The Tiny Seed worksheet.”
6. Sing the “Growing Plant” Songs together as a group.
7. As the seeds begin to sprout in the seed house, have students create drawings of the seedlings in their seed books.
**Additional Activities**

1. Teacher does a shared writing as students retell “The Tiny Seed.”
2. Using the interactive writing procedures, the students will write sentences telling ways seeds travel.
3. Students will pick one way that seeds travel. They will write one sentence and illustrate it.

*Lesson adapted from USOE Teachers Resource Book.*
The Tiny Seed

These things help the tiny seed:
1. _________________________________
2. _________________________________
3. _________________________________
4. _________________________________

These things hurt the tiny seed:
1. _____________________________________
2. _____________________________________
3. _____________________________________
4. _____________________________________

bird     sun     mouse     soil     wind     weed     foot     rain
Growing Plants Songs

Growing Plants
(Sung to “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”)

Growing, growing little plants,
Growing plants need lots of air.
If by chance you see a weed,
Pull it; take care of your seed.
Growing, growing little plants,
Growing plants need lots of care.

Growing, growing little plants,
Growing plants need lots of sun.
If by chance you see a weed,
Pull it; take care of your seed.
Growing, growing little plants,
Growing plants is lots of fun.

Growing, growing little plants,
Growing plants in healthy soil.
If by chance you see a weed,
Pull it; take care of your seed.
Growing, growing little plants,
In healthy soil they will not spoil.

Growing, growing little plants,
Growing plants need water too.
If by chance you see a weed,
Pull it; take care of your seed.
Growing, growing little plants,
Growing plants is fun to do.

Maytime Magic

A little seed
For me to sow...

A little soil
To make it grow... .
A little hole,
A little tap. . .
A little love,
And that is that.

A little sun,
A little shower. . .
A little while,
And then...a flower!