

Explore the wonderful world of life cycles with beans! This simple activity will sprout your interest in plants.

MATERIALS

- Beans
- Paper towels
- Sealable plastic bags
- Water
- Tape



EXPERIMENT

1. Fold a paper towel into quarters. Make sure that it is small enough to lay flat inside your plastic bag.
2. Carefully place the folded paper towel into the bag.
3. Pour a small amount of water into the plastic bag and soak the paper towel entirely through.
4. Pour out any excess water from the plastic bag that the paper towel cannot absorb.
5. Place 3 - 4 beans in a row on top of the paper towel inside the plastic bag.
6. Hang your plastic bag in a nice sunny location in your house.
7. Watch your beans sprout and observe how they grow.

WHY IT WORKS

Sprouting is how seeds germinate, or begin growing. The dry bean seeds purchased at the grocery store are dormant, or not growing. Each seed contains reserves of food needed for the plant to grow. The wet conditions inside the plastic bag reactivate the seeds from being dormant and also helps break down the seeds' protective coats. Over several days, the seeds will begin to change and grow into seedlings right before your eyes!