



Teacher Toolkit

Activity: Exploring Seeds

Presented by: Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati

Grade Level(s) PreK- 1st grade

Activity Description

Learn all about seed characteristics. Read *Pumpkin Pumpkin* to introduce concepts about seeds and plants. Then sort seeds based on their physical characteristics and collect seeds from plants in the garden.



Ohio Standards Met

- Science, Kindergarten: Physical and behavioral traits of living things
- Science, Grade 1: Basic needs of living things
- Math, Kindergarten: Describe and compare measurable attributes
- Math, Grade 1: Reason with shapes and their attributes

Instructions

- Introduction
 - Tour the garden to be used, making observations and discussing expectations of the students.
 - What are the basic needs of living things? Do you see them in the garden?
 - Seeds- what do they look like? How do they grow? Are they living?
 - Break into three groups for each of the three activity stations (or do each station as a whole class).
- Station 1- Read *Pumpkin Pumpkin* by Jeanne Titherington
 - Ask students to think about the sequence of events in the story. What happened first? When did the seed start to grow? Will the story continue?
 - Ask students to place the plant growth sequence cards in the correct order.

Thanks to Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE) for collecting activities for the Teacher Toolkit



Instructions (continued)

- Station 2- Explore: Seed Sorting
 - Prep: pour a small amount of mixed seeds into small cups and pass them to pairs of students.
 - Explain to the students that they will be searching in their seed collection for seeds that fit the descriptions on the worksheet.
 - For PreK, sort the seeds from small to big or by other characteristics, K-1 can sort into categories.
- Station 3- Garden: Seed Collecting
 - Look at plants in the garden and observe their different seeds.
 - If plants have seeds that are ready to be harvested, collect them (with tweezers if possible) into brown bags.
 - Compare and discuss the seeds collected.
- Conclusion
 - Ask students for ideas on how they can help seeds grow.
 - What can they do to make sure the garden stays healthy? What can they do to help the environment around the school and their neighborhood?

Materials Needed

- Station 1
 - *Pumpkin Pumpkin* by Jeanne Titherington
 - Plant growth sequence cards (see next page)
- Station 2
 - 'Seed Sorting' worksheet (see next page)
 - Mixed seeds
 - Cups
- Station 3
 - Hand lenses
 - Paper bags

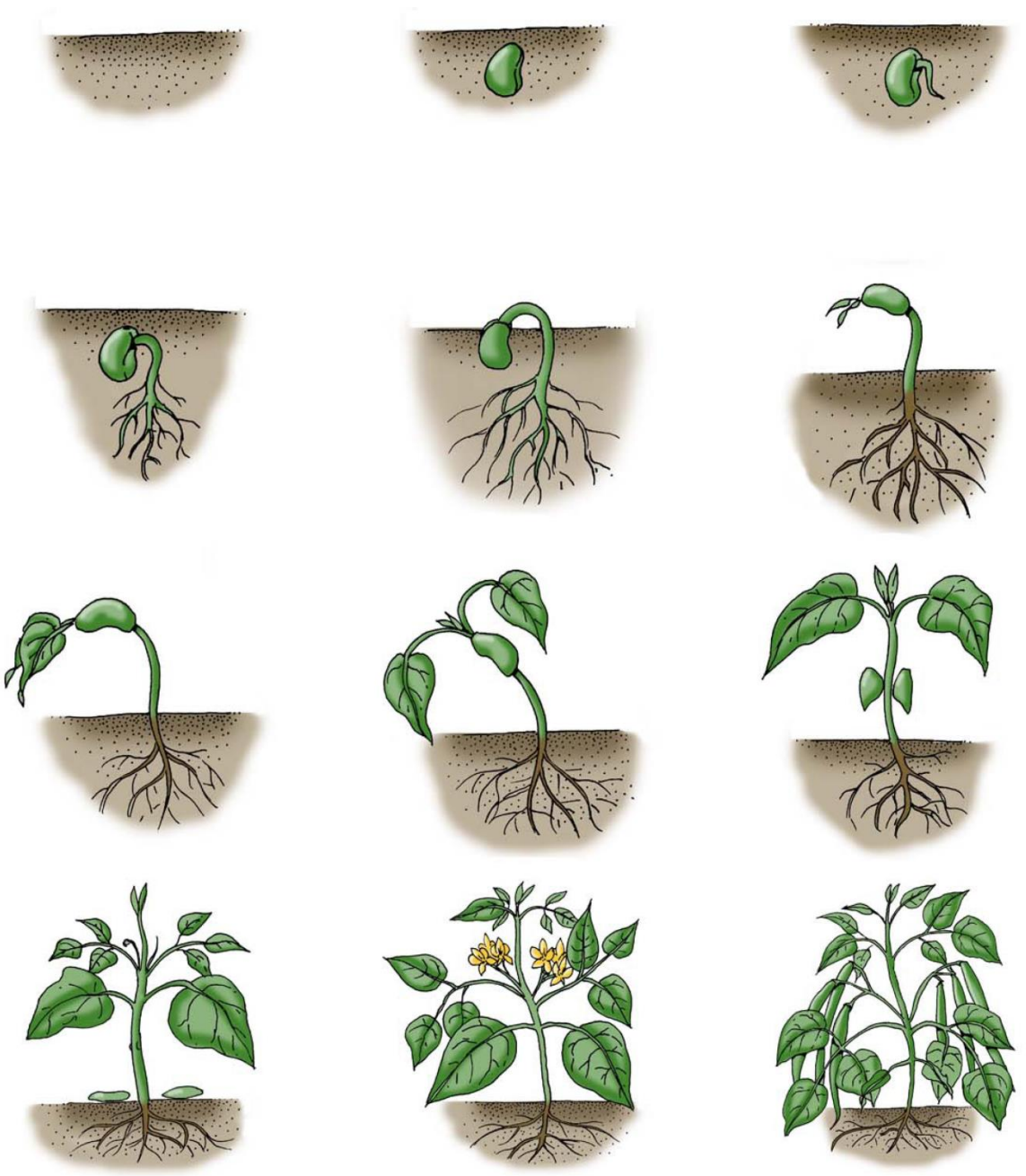
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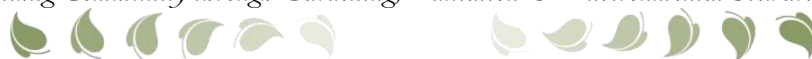
Garden Lesson: Exploring Seeds

Season: Fall

Grades: Preschool, Kindergarten & 1st
Reading Station Plant Growth Sequence Cards (www.exploringnature.org)



Building Community through Gardening, Education & Environmental Stewardship



Line up the seeds from small to big!



BIG	Small	<i>ROUND</i>	<u>FLAT</u>	Long
Smooth	Rough	Light	DARK	Multicolor

