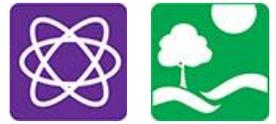


Grow Your Own Plants



STEM • GET OUTSIDE!

Have you ever watched a plant grow? Every plant, including giant trees, starts from just a small seed. Your challenge is to grow your own plant, and keep track of how fast it grows.

Growing your own plant to observe, measure and nurture takes time! Different seeds sprout at different times, so depending on which plant you choose, it will take a different amount of time to see the first signs of growth. This means it is important to be patient.

Are you ready to be a plant scientist? Have fun gardening!

Materials:

- Seeds*: Bird seed, grass seed, beans and cat grass seeds all grow quickly!
- Soil: Potting soil or a little dirt from a garden
- Planter: Recycled containers are great
- Sun: A window or sunny area
- Water
- A metric ruler
- Growth Chart (below)

Directions:

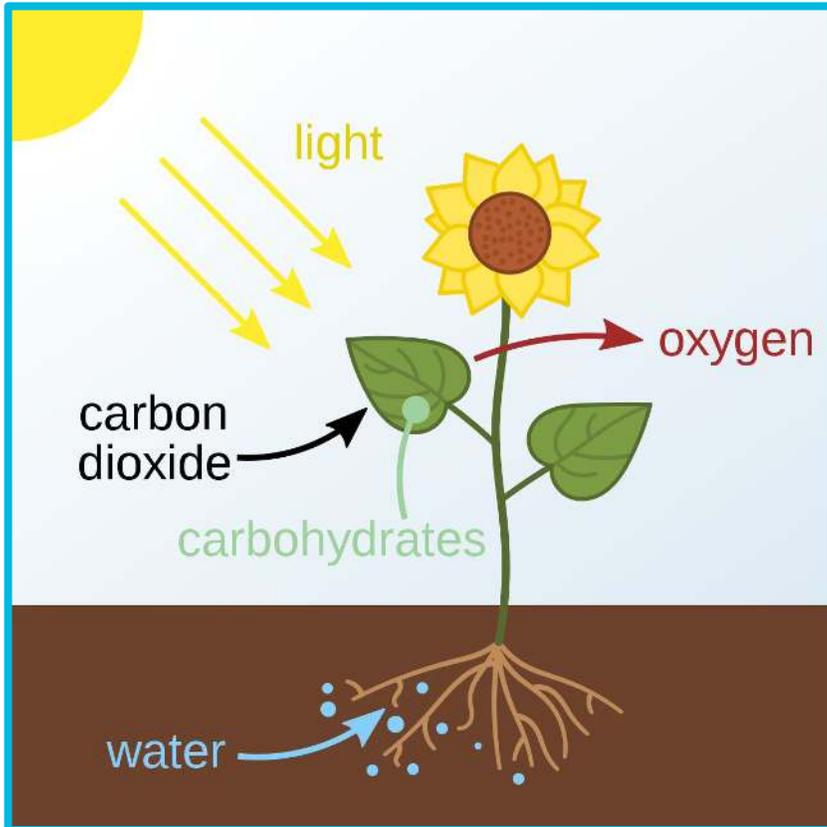
1. Plant a few seeds in a small container. Add the soil first, then the seed, then another shallow layer of soil. Next, water your seeds.
2. Check your plant every day, and once you see some growth, start filling out the growth chart and making sketches. (It will take at least a few days to see any growth and can be as long as a few weeks.)



***If you don't have access to seeds:**

- You can start with a young plant, like a grass shoot or weed.
-or-
- Would you rather hang out in a garden? Then select one plant to observe outside.

Grow Your Own Plants



Tips:

- Keep your seeds moist but not too wet.
- If you are using a container with holes for drainage, make sure it is on a plate.
- Seeds like to be warm! Warm window sills are perfect spots for growing.
- Don't forget to include units of measurement!

Observe:

- How many days did it take your seed to sprout?
- What color is your sprouting plant?
- How does the color change as the plant grows?
- Some plants grow towards the light. Does yours? This is called *phototropism*.
- Can you make a graph of your plant growth?



Growth Chart



Over one week, measure the growth of your plant.
Day 1 is the first day you see growth (Date of Germination).

Type of Seed:

Date Planted: Date of Germination:

	Measurement	Observation	Sketch
Day 1			
Day 2			
Day 3			
Day 4			
Day 5			
Day 6			
Day 7			