

Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
SECOND GRADE

Title of Lesson: The Life Cycle of a Bean Plant

Theme: Life Science

Unit Number: 2 **Unit Title:** Life Cycles

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S2L1 Students will investigate the life cycles of different living organisms.

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Life Cycle of a Plant- seed, plant, stem, leaves, roots

Learning Activity (description in steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Students will plant a bean seed and observe the life cycle, and draw a diagram to explain it.

Details: Students will plant a bean seed in a small cup of soil and water it with an amount of water that they think is appropriate. They will then color a diagram of the life cycle of a plant- beginning with the seed, then a sprouting seedling, then growing into a small plant and then into a large plant. On the large plant picture they will label the stem, roots and leaves and be able to explain the function of each. Every few days (about 3 times a week), the students will observe their growing plant and write in their science journal about what they see, including a drawing of what the plant looks like and a measurement of the height of the plant. They will continue to water the plant and put it in a location where they think it receives appropriate sunlight.

Materials Needed (type and quantity): small, plastic cups- 1 per student, 2 bags of potting soil for a class of about 20, 4 bean seeds per student, water, paper and coloring materials for the diagrams, ruler to measure height, science journals (they may already have these)

Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions): Pour each student's soil into their cup because they are likely to pour too much/too little and make a mess of it. Pour the soil outside to avoid an imminent mess in the classroom. Give the students some guidance about how much water to pour so they don't prevent growth of the seed from too much water.

Sources/References:

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