

Germinating seeds

When seeds have the right conditions for growth they germinate.

You can see this process happening by placing a seed somewhere that has the right conditions for growth. Conditions for growth for a seed include warmth, sunlight and water.

Materials

- Two clear plastic containers with a lids.
- Paper towels.
- Some water
- Some seeds (from a gardening shop).



Method

Watch the video for step by step instructions.

- Fold paper towels (one for each container) so they fit into the bottom of the container.
- Wet one of the paper towels with water from a tap. Pour off any water that is sitting in the bottom of the container.
- Keep the second paper towel dry.
- Sprinkle the seeds over the paper towels. Try to put a similar amount in each container.
- Put the lids on the containers, label them and leave them somewhere inside where they can get light - but not direct sunlight.
- Take a photo through the lid of the containers each day and observe what happens.

Bonus question

Why do we make sure the containers out of direct sunlight?

Extension activity

Can seeds germinate without light?

To answer this question you can add a third container to your experiment. This container should have water but get no light. You will need to put it in a dark place. Check and photograph this container at the same time you check the other containers.