

# Seeds We Need

GRADES: K-2

## Key Words and Definitions

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**SEED** : small part of a flowering plant that grows into a new plant.

**GROW** : to become larger and stronger over time.

**PLANT** : living being with roots, shoots and leaves that makes sugar from water and sunlight.

*Look for keywords—**BOLDED**—throughout this lesson extension!*

## Activity 1: Seed Sort

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*One, approximately 30-minute session; pre-visit*

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students make observations and sort seeds based on characteristics, including seed size, shape, color and texture. This ultimately helps them discover the different functions and adaptations of a variety of seeds.

### MATERIALS

- Paper plates or containers for holding seeds
- Variety of seeds (can be store-bought or collected)
- Examples: sunflower or pumpkin seeds, lentils, lima or pinto beans, popcorn kernels, acorns, rice, oats

### PRO-SEED-URE

Ask students to go on a hunt for **SEEDS** and bring in different seeds they may have at home, or see on their way to and from school. When you have gathered a decent sized collection of seeds (about two handfuls each), you can start the sorting activity. You may purchase seeds to supplement those the students bring to class.

Divide the class into small groups and give each group a mix of seeds and a stack of paper plates. Allow time for students to use their senses to observe the collection of



seeds on their tables. Ask them to describe the seeds in as many ways as they can, and make a list of the descriptions on the board. Then, assign groups of students to sort the seeds into groups based on the features they just described (color, shape, size, texture, etc.) using the paper plates as sorting containers. When they are finished sorting, have the groups count the number of seeds in each category and share their results with the rest of the class.

## Activity 2: Seed Surprise

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*One, approximately 40-minute session; post-visit*

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

By creating personalized “seed surprises,” students add to the biodiversity in their area and grow their appreciation for seeds.

### MATERIALS

- Scrap paper (old worksheets, newspaper, paper towels, etc.)
- [Native seed mix](#)
- Blender or food processor
- Large container
- Bowls for mixing
- Strainers or old t-shirts
- Optional: Ice cube tray or molds

### PRO-SEED-URE

“Seed surprises” are small balls of **SEEDS** held together by clay, soil, recycled paper or other growing materials. Seed balls can be thrown in a yard or other safe green spaces where they can **GROW**.

Start by gathering scrap paper—be newspaper, paper towels, construction paper, etc. If you want your “seed surprises” to be different colors, use different colored paper. Have students rip up the scrap paper into small pieces, as small as they possibly can. Then place the pieces of paper in a large container. Soak them overnight and return the next day.

Use a blender to turn the torn paper into a pulp by filling the blender about  $\frac{1}{3}$  full and adding water until there are 1 to 2 inches of water above the paper. When you are done blending, have students use strainers or t-shirts to drain some of the water from the pulp. Then ask them to mix a pinch of seeds with a small scoop of pulp. You can also



add the seeded pulp to a mold or ice cube tray and leave to dry overnight. Once dry, the "seed surprises" are ready to be planted.

## SOURCES

"Seed Surprise" Instructional Video. Lefler, Emilie, director. How To Make Seed Bombs | Seed Balls | Craft Idea DIY. *YouTube*, 20 May 2014, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3tbZguBzG8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3tbZguBzG8).

Background Information on "Seed Surprises". Jeffery, Josie. "What Is a Seedbomb?" *The Ecologist*, 17 Nov. 2017, <https://theecologist.org/2011/may/04/what-seedbomb>.

