



Pocket Germination

Age Pre-K to 5th grade

Time: 20 minutes

Group size: 25

By the end of this activity, participants will be able to see seed germination and that a plant needs nutrient.

Material Needed:

2x3 plastic bag

Radish seeds

3 different colors of water beads

3 containers for beads

water

Preparation

Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water for 20 water beads make sure you keep the colored beads in separate containers.

Ask students can a plant start to grow in this baggy?

Chart answers on the board.

Ask students what does a plant need to grow?

Write answers on the board (sunlight water soil) then add darkness warmth and fertilizer

Explain soil needs nutrients just like you need food to stay healthy. These nutrients are Nitrogen (N) it makes plants strong,

Phosphorus (P) keeps roots healthy and helps plants catch energy from the sun and Potassium (K) keeps plants from wilting and protects from disease.

Hold up first container of water beads with an N on the container.

Ask students what does (N) stand for and what is its job?

Give each student one(N) bead in the plastic bag

Hold up second container of water beads with a P?

Ask students what does (P) stand for and what is its job?

Give each student one (P) bead in the plastic bag.

Hold up third container with a K

Ask what does (K) stand for and what is its job?

Give each student one (K) bead in the plastic bag.

Then place one seed into the bag push out the air and close the top.

Define on the board Germinate: when a seed begins to grow roots or sprout.

Explain that Fertilizer is made up of the NPK nutrients.

Tie a string around the top of the bag and ask students to wear the bag around their necks and tucked inside their shirts so the little radish seed will have a warm, dark, nutrient rich fertilized place to Germinate.

Remind students not to shower or sleep in the necklace.

Tomorrow wear it to school so we can see if our little radish has started to grow.