LA COUNTY LIBRARY

Activity Idea

Sprout a Bean

Recommended for Ages 5 – 10 years

Sprout a Bean at Home!

Spring is in the air! Look around you and see the flowers, trees, plants budding outside. Have you ever wondered how a seed germinates? Germination is what happens when a seed grows roots and stems. In this science experiment, you can see how a bean(s) can grow into a small plant with roots and stems in a greenhouse. A greenhouse is a house that protects plants from the harsh cold or hot weather so they can grow throughout the year.

You will need:

- A Ziploc sandwich bag
- Paper towel
- Beans – pinto, navy, etc.
- Markers to decorate your greenhouse if you like
- 1 tablespoon (tbsp) of water

Instructions:

1. Decorate the sandwich bag with makers if you like.
2. Tear a piece of the paper towel no bigger than 2” x 3” with your fingers.
3. Open your sandwich bag and put the paper towel all the way to bottom of the sandwich bag.
4. Add one tbsp of water into the sandwich bag to moisten the paper towel.
5. Add 2 to 3 beans into the sandwich bag so they are touching the paper towel.
6. Close the sandwich bag.
7. Add 1 tbsp of water to your greenhouse every other day if needed to keep the paper towel moist.

For your bean to sprout, it needs light! Sunlight provides plants with energy for them to grow. This is called photosynthesis. Place your greenhouse next to a window for your bean to receive sunlight.

Observations:

- How many days did it take for the bean to sprout roots?
- How many days did take for the bean to grow stems?
- Do you notice droplets of water in your greenhouse?
- Was the experiment a success? What would you do differently?