

Bean Sprouts with a Box Turtle

Hello! Where have you *BEAN*? I've been hoping some friends would join me in my explorations! I see so many new sprouts popping up out of the spring ground. And I've wanted to see what's below to be found!

So today I'm going to plant a seed and see if it *germinates*. Plant germination is when a sprout grows from a seed or similar structure. Because the seed does not have leaves that can make its food from the sun, it relies on all the energy within the seed to sprout up to the grounds surface!

While all seeds are different and special in their own way, they also have different needs to germinate, like soil depth, water, oxygen and temperature. For our experiment today the best seeds are dry beans. If your home does not have any dry beans, you can use lentils or seeds from trees outside.

What foods do you eat that might have seeds in them? (These seeds might not germinate in the conditions we create today but please experiment and discover for yourself!)





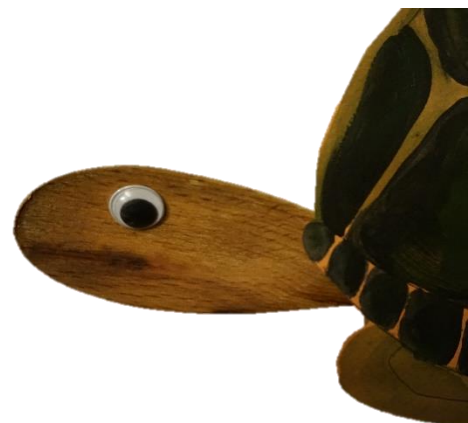
For this experiment collect:

- A jar or clear container with a lid
- Paper towel, toilet paper, or an old towel or tshirt
- 1-3 beans (pinto, red, kidney)
- Water
- Sunshine and enthusiasm

1. Fill your container with the paper product or old t-shirt or towel.
2. Add enough water so all the material in the container is wet.
3. Place the beans onto the side of the container. The bean should be pushed against the wall of the container so you can keep an eye on its changes.



4. Put a lid onto the container. This will help keep your seeds environment moist so it'll have better odds to germinate. When a seed fills with water, it signals to some enzymes "it's time to sprout!!!"... *So neat.*
5. Find a sunny windowsill to place your container, where your seed can be warmed by the sun.



Many beans will only take 4-6 days to germinate, so make sure to write down your observations every day! You can ask some of the following questions or make up your own!

- Did its size or shape change?
- Did it move?!
- Does the container feel warm in the sun?
- What colors does the bean have?



You might have your own bean sprout in 4-6 days!

Well, thanks ya sprouts. Share your observation logs and bean sprout photos with us at **#uecinmybackyard !**

Happy Growing,
-Boxer the Box Turtle