

# SEED SORT

Seeds come in many shapes, sizes and colors. In this activity, students will compare and contrast seeds from the *Drive through Florida: Vegetables* book, and discuss germination.

## Activity 1: Compare, Contrast

1. Obtain the following seed packets: tomato, squash, snap beans, sweet corn, bell pepper, cucumber, lettuce, cabbage, celery and radish.
2. Place students into groups and give each group a plate with one seed from each seed packet. Have them compare and contrast seeds by color, size and/or shape and organize into a Venn diagram.
3. Have students measure the length of the seeds in centimeters and put their measurements into chart form.

## Activity 2: Germination

1. Ask students “Do you think that seeds are alive?” (Yes, they are just dormant)
2. Ask students “What is germination?” (The sprouting of a seed.)
3. Ask students “What can be done to make seeds sprout and grow into a plant?” (Seeds need water, air and heat in order to germinate.)
4. Ask students which seeds they think will germinate first, and have them make a hypothesis about it.
  - Keep students in their original groups, and have them plant their seeds. An egg carton is an inexpensive way to start seeds, and allows you to plant 12 different kinds of seeds.
  - Make sure to poke a few drain holes in the bottom of each, and label the type of seed put into each hole.
  - Make sure the soil stays damp, and temperature is warm. Placing them in a window sill is the best location.
  - At the end of each day, ask students to check their seeds to see if any of them have sprouted. Make a chart to show how many days it takes for each seed to germinate. Have groups compare their results with the other groups.

\*This activity coordinates with *Gardening For Grades*’ ‘Yo Seeds, Wake Up!’ lesson.