



Seed Necklace



Purpose: Students will understand what a plant needs to grow by germinating seeds using a seed necklace.

Background: The life cycle of a flowering plant begins with a seed. A seed contains an embryo—what will become a new plant—and food for the embryo. Seeds are dormant, or inactive, until they receive the correct amount of moisture and the proper temperature. With appropriate warmth and moisture, seeds will germinate, producing a tiny, immature plant called a seedling. The seedling will grow into a mature plant which, when fertilized, will produce seeds. Plants need water, light, nutrients, and air to grow.

Radish Facts:

- Radishes germinate quickly and reach harvestable size in about 20-30 days.
- They come in many flavors, shapes, sizes, and colors.
- Radishes (*Raphanus sativus*) are a member of the Brassicaceae family. They are a close relative of cabbages, turnips, and mustards.
- The entire radish plant is edible. Young radish greens are edible and tasty, fresh, or cooked. Older greens are tougher and often have a peppery taste. Both the root and the greens become tough and bitter as they mature, especially in hot weather.
- In Florida, the best time to grow this vegetable is September through March.

Materials: Water beads (yellow, white, blue, red), 2” x 3” jewelry bag or snack Ziploc bag, hole punch, yarn or string, 3 radish seeds (Note: Any seeds can be used. Radish seeds germinate the quickest.), scissors. Option: cotton balls

Preparation Before the Lesson:

- Place water beads in water for them to soak up the water.
- Cut yarn to fit as a necklace.
- Punch a hole in the bags.

Activity:

1. Place 4 beads (or one damp cotton ball) in the bag, one of each color: **red** represents nutrients, **yellow** represents sunlight, **blue** represents water, and **white** represents air.
2. Place 3 radish seeds in the bag. Seal the bag.
3. Lace the yarn or string through the hole of the bag and tie. Wear as a necklace.
4. Seeds should germinate in 24-48 hours.

