

Pumpkin Pal



Learning Goals: Grow a pumpkin in a plastic bag. Learn how seeds grow, germination and parts of a plant.

**FARM
BUREAU
VIRGINIA**

Introduction

Seeing seed germinate into a plant is a wonder for children.

Materials:

- ◆ Jewelry size re-sealable bag (found in craft stores)
- ◆ Cotton ball
- ◆ Hole Punch
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Pumpkin seeds (Any large seed can be substituted – pumpkins, squash, etc., but you will have to change your “Pumpkin Pal” to a “Squash Baby”)
- ◆ Yarn

How to:

1. Punch a hole in the top of your bag.
2. Place a wet, but not soaked, cotton ball in the bag.
3. Gently push in two pumpkin seeds.
4. Seal your bag firmly.
5. Insert the yarn to make a necklace.
6. Wear your Pumpkin Pal around your neck and under your shirt to keep it in a warm, dark place.
7. Check your Pumpkin Pal several times a day for germination and record the growth.

8. Ask the class to repeat the Pumpkin Pal pledge:

Pledge


I, (state your name), promise to care for my Pumpkin Pal day and night. I will keep him close to my heart. I will carry him with me at all times.

NOTE: After the seeds have sprouted they should be planted in soil to keep growing. **Do not** try and separate seeds from cotton ball. Plant everything in the soil so as not to break the roots of the soybean plants.

Suggestions for discussion and additional activities:

Define the term germination

** *To sprout or begin to grow*



Show the class a variety of seeds and brainstorm what a seed needs to germinate
*** This list should be comprised of the children's perceptions of what a seed needs to germinate, but guide them to include the following if they don't think of them on their own: water, air, warm temperature (this will usually be identified as "sun" explain it is the warmth of the light the seeds need to germinate.).*

Talk about farmers planting acres (an acre is about the size of a football field) and having to care for all those seeds. What effect does weather have (too hot, too cold, too dry, too wet) on seeds germinating and crops growing?