



# Desktop Gardens

Create a tiny garden for your students' desktop! Add small toys, rocks, labels or marbles to this oasis in a lid.

## Preparing your garden plot

1. Take a clean lid from a peanut butter jar or use a plastic soup-cup lid.
2. Fit paper towel into lid, covering any tiny holes.
3. Moisten paper towel with water.
4. Sprinkle seeds on the area where you want growth to occur.
5. Cover the lid with a thick piece of cardboard or aluminum foil to block the light and allow seeds to germinate.
6. Check your garden every day until you see little shoots growing, then remove the cover. Be sure to keep the paper towel damp.
7. Once the seeds have sprouted, let them grow by regularly watering the desktop garden. Decorate with small cars, rocks, or even marbles.

## Materials

- Clean lid
- Paper towel
- Seeds
- Aluminum foil or cardstock to block light
- Water

## Tip

Use mustard seeds or cress seeds. They are speedy growers and will sprout anywhere as long as they are damp!

## Watch Online!

See a video of this Ag-Bite at [LearnAboutAg.org/agbites](http://LearnAboutAg.org/agbites)

## Classroom Activities

### Math

- Find out what percentage or fraction of each student's desk is covered by the garden plot.

### English Language Arts

- Have students keep a journal of the growth stages of the garden plot.
- Ask students to create a poem about their garden plot.
- Have students write a story about their plot and submit the top five stories from your class to the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest. Visit [LearnAboutAg.org/imaginethis](http://LearnAboutAg.org/imaginethis).

### Science

- Create an experiment with the desktop gardens. Separate gardens into groups and see how they do with less water or more water, less light or more light. Compare growth of mustard seeds to tomato seeds.



## California Standards:

### Grade 2

ELA CC: W.2.3, 7  
Math CC: 2.MD.1, 9  
NGSS: 2-LS2-1

### Grade 4

ELA CC: W.4.3, 7

### Grade 3

ELA CC: W.3.3, 7  
Math CC: 3.MD.4  
NGSS: 3-LS1-1

### Grade 5

ELA CC: W.5.3, 7

NGSS: 5-LS1-1

*This lesson can be easily adapted to meet the educational standards for a variety of grade levels.*

*Adapted from The Gardening Book by Jane Bull*

