

# Plant It! - Pueblo Chile Seed Planting Activity

**Academic Standard Connections:** This activity provides students with a hands-on experience to plant and observe the growth of Pueblo Chile seeds, meeting standards for Grades K, 2, 5 Science (K-LS1-1; 2-LS2-1; 5-LS1-1).

**Purpose:** The purpose of this activity is to allow each student to grow their own Pueblo Chile plant and harvest their chile pods (approximately 75 days after transplanting). Seeds should be started in the classroom. Teachers may opt to keep the seed cups in the classroom to record observations as a class and then send home with students. Or teachers may have the students take home their seed cups with lids securely fastened right away and record observations on their own.

**Important:** Please share seed supplies with other classes in your school participating in this Literacy Project. Each packet of Pueblo Chile seeds contains 30 seeds. The activity is designed for each student to receive at least two seeds with that goal that at least one seed will sprout and become a plant. A special thank you to Pueblo Seed & Food Company, Cortez, CO, ([www.farmdirectseed.com](http://www.farmdirectseed.com)) for being the seed supplier for this project.

**Additional Resources:** Find these lessons and more by searching the key word on the Curriculum Matrix at [CoAgClassroom.org](http://CoAgClassroom.org).

**Plants All Around You Video (Elementary):** A virtual classroom from Nutrients 4 Live available on YouTube (<https://bit.ly/41Sh1k7>)

**Properties of Soils (Grades 3-5):** Students learn about the characteristics and components of soil.

**Plant-Soil Interactions (Grades 3-5):** Students learn about the function of roots and how water and nutrients move through a plant.

**Plant Growth Affects the Soil (Grades 3-5):** Students learn about how plant growth takes nutrients from soil and how nutrients can be replaced.

**How Does Your Garden Grow? (Grades K-5):** Students make a plan for a garden.

**Crops on the Farm (Grades K-2):** Students investigate different food crops and how they grow.

**Eating Plants (Grades K-2):** Students identify the structure and function of six plant parts and classify fruits and vegetables.

---

## Supplies (per student):

- 1 Jiffy Super Peat Pellet
- 1 cup and lid
- 2 Pueblo Chile (*Capsicum annuum*) seeds
- Water
- 1 copy of the Pueblo Chile Seed Planting Activity Student Worksheet (on back)

## Instructions:

1. Each student receives 1 peat pellet, 1 cup, and 1 lid.
2. Write students' names on the plastic cup and lid with a marker.
3. Place peat pellet into plastic cup.
4. Add water to cup (about half the height of the cup) so the peat pellet expands to its full size of about 3 inches tall. Wait 10 to 15 minutes for the pellet to absorb the water and completely expand. Add more water if needed, but avoid over saturating the pellet.
5. Each student receives 2 Pueblo Chile seeds. Complete Part 1 of the Student Worksheet.
6. Plant the seeds into the peat pellet by following these instructions:
  - a. Make a hole with a finger or pencil into the top of the expanded peat pellet about 1/4 inch deep.

b. Place two seeds in the hole.

c. Gently brush the sides of the hole to cover the seeds with soil from the peat pellet.

7. Place lid on top of the cup to act as a mini greenhouse. Once seeds have sprouted, remove lid. Peat pellet temperature should be 70-85 degrees for seed germination.
8. Place seed cups in a warm, sunny spot. Check seed cups regularly to make sure the peat soil is moist. The whole peat pellets (plant, roots, and all) should be transplanted into a larger container or in a garden, about 8-12 weeks after sprouting.
9. Transplanted plant should be watered regularly.

**Growing Tips:** Chile plants grow best in full sun with moderate water and should be transplanted outdoors into a garden or container after there is no danger of frost. Depending on when the seeds were planted, the seedling may need to be transplanted indoors into a small container with potting soil until it is warm enough to plant outside. Plants are very productive and grow well in high and low elevations, short seasons, or dry climates. Pepper pods will be 5-8 inches in length and will grow towards the sun. Harvest peppers when they are green or wait a few more weeks until they turn red.

# Plant It! - Pueblo Chile Seed Planting Activity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 1: Seed planting

1. Draw a picture of your seed:

2. Use two words to describe your seed:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What date did you plant your seeds?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How many seeds did you plant in your seed cup?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How many seeds do you predict will sprout?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

## Part 2: Seed observations

Look at your seed cup each day and complete the chart below.

Number of days after planting	Date	Number of sprouts	Observations Use a separate sheet of paper to draw a picture of what you see on Day 4, Day 9, and Day 14.
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			