

Seed Investigators

OVERVIEW: Seeds come in so many shapes and sizes! Your students can sort, count, and compare while exploring all different kinds of seeds. This is a great activity to do with old, expired seeds, or you can just use a bag of 15-bean soup mix from the grocery store.



OBJECTIVES: The student will be able to

- Sort seeds by size, color, and shape.
- Count seeds by ones, twos, fives, and tens.
- Determine which group of seeds is greater than or less than another.
- Depending on grade level, graph the seeds by size or assist in a whole-class graphing.

GRADES: PreK-2

MATERIALS:

A bag or envelope of seeds for each child that contains seeds in a variety of shapes, colors, and sizes. Bird seed works for this activity or a 15-bean soup mix. You can also use packages of expired seeds for this activity. (You can put the seeds in small baggies or envelopes ahead of time to be ready for the lesson.)

PROCEDURE:

Give each child a small pile of seeds in assorted shapes, colors, and sizes. First, ask them to count all the seeds. Then, depending on the grade level, ask the students to count them by twos, fives, and tens.

Next ask the students to sort the seeds by color and note the number of groups. Then ask the students to sort the seed by shape. Lastly, ask the students to sort the seeds by size. After each grouping, ask the students to determine which group of seeds is greater than and which is less than another.

Depending on the grade level, either ask the students to graph their seeds by size or lead the class in making one graph by size of the seeds.

EVALUATION:

Teacher observation. The students can sort their groups of seeds by size, color, and shape, and count the seeds by ones, twos, fives, or tens. Completed graphs of seeds or participation in whole-class graphing of seeds.

EXTENSION: Read a book about seeds such as:

A Seed is Sleepy, by Dianna Hutts Aston

A Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds, by Jean Richards

Flip, Float, Fly, Seeds on the Move, by JoAnn Early Macken

From Seed to Plant, by Allan Fowler

From Seed to Plant, by Gail Gibbons

The Tiny Seed, by Eric Carle

One Little Seed, by Elaine Greenstein

New Jersey Learning Standards

Science: PreK: 5.1.1-4, 5.2.1, 5.3.1 K:LS1.C 1:LS1.A 2:LS2.A

Math: PreK: 4.1-4 K.CC, K.G.A 1: 1.OA.A, C 2.MBT.2

