



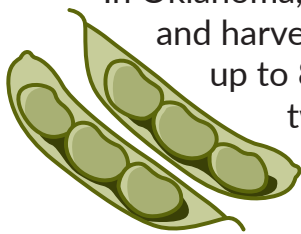
# SOYBEANS

Elementary

The bushy, green soybean plant is a legume. The soybean is native to East Asia. Soybeans were first brought to North America in the early 19th century from China. US farmers first grew soybeans as cattle feed. Henry Ford experimented with soy-based plastics in the production of his cars. George Washington Carver also developed more than 300 uses for soybeans, including edible oil and meal. It was also useful to restore nutrients to the depleted soils of the South. Legumes fix nitrogen in the soil.



In Oklahoma, soybeans are planted in the spring and harvested in the fall. Plants can produce up to 80 pods per plant. Each pod contains two to four pea-sized beans. Soybeans are typically among Oklahoma's top 10 agricultural commodities.



## MAKE YOUR OWN SOYBEAN PLASTIC

Ask an adult for help!

- ½ cup cornstarch
  - ½ cup water
  - 1 tsp soybean oil (vegetable oil)
  - 7 x 9 inch dish
  - Food coloring
  - Metal cookie cutters
  - Parchment paper
1. Put ½ cup of cornstarch in 7x9 dish
  2. Add ½ cup water
  3. Add 1 tsp of soybean oil
  4. Stir until mixture is combined and smooth
  5. Add one or multiple colors, gently swirl colors for tie-dye
  6. Microwave for 2 min and 30 sec
  7. Remove dish from microwave and let cool 10 minutes
  8. Cut shapes using cookie cutter or knife and dry on parchment paper

The plastic is squishy at first but will harden after about 24 hours.

## DID YOU KNOW?

One acre of soybeans can make 82,363 crayons!





Did you know that animal agriculture is the #1 user of soybeans? Poultry and livestock eat the soybean meal.

## FULL OF BEANS: HENRY FORD GROWS A CAR



Scan this to listen to Rick Reimer, executive director of the Oklahoma Soybean Board, read Full of Beans by Peggy Thomas! Then answer the questions.

How did the Great Depression affect the country and farmers?

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In the spring of 1932, how many kinds of soybeans did Henry Ford's tractors plant? How many acres did the soybeans cover?

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Henry Ford was full of beans! Name three items made of soybeans named in the book.

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## SOYBEAN PLANT LIFE CYCLE

Match the images to the corresponding soybean plant life cycle step.



The soybean plant blooms.



The soybean seed sprouts.



The soybean plant grows.



The soybean plant dries down and is harvested.



The soybean seed is planted.



The soybean blooms wilt and a seed pod starts to form.

