

WISCONSIN FARM IN A GLOVE

Where do the foods we eat come from?

Have you ever wondered where the food you eat comes from? Most foods are grown on farms. Wisconsin farmers grow many foods from seeds. Inside every seed is an **embryo**, or young plant, which has the potential to grow into a new plant. Different seeds come from different crops. The physical properties of each variety of seed may be different, but seeds do have something in common: all seeds need water, oxygen (air), and the correct temperature to **germinate**, or sprout.

Typically, the germination process occurs underground where it cannot be seen but in this activity you will provide seeds the necessary conditions to germinate five different types of seeds in a clear glove.



Wheat



Cantaloupe



Popcorn



Cherry Tomato



Bush Bean

Procedure:

1. Gather the following materials: 1 clear plastic glove, 5-6 cotton balls, 5 different varieties of seed, a permanent marker, clear tape and science journal.
2. Use the permanent marker to label each finger and thumb of a plastic glove with one variety of seed per finger/thumb - wheat, cantaloupe, bush (green) bean, popcorn, and cherry tomato. Write your name in the center of the glove.
3. Dip five cotton balls into water and squeeze out excess moisture.
 - a. Note: For the large seeds, like the bush (green) bean, use two moistened cotton balls.
4. Place one seed on each cotton ball.
5. Insert the cotton balls and seed into the correctly labeled fingers of the glove.
6. Fold down the opening of the glove and secure it with tape.
7. Observe each seed and record your observations on the Seed Observation Chart on the back of this page.
8. Hang gloves on a classroom bulletin board or other warm location, with fingers facing downward.

Observations

Record daily observations of germinating seeds in your science journal by tracing your hand in your science journal and draw pictures of seed growth, noting measurements and changes.

Transplanting:

Some seedlings will be ready for transplanting to a new container within 1-2 weeks.

1. Cut the bottom off each glove finger and remove the cotton balls with the sprouts.
2. The entire cotton ball should be planted with the seedling into the soil in separate container.

A WISCONSIN FARM IN A GLOVE

Are all Seeds Created Equal?

Do all seeds look the same? For most seeds the answer is no. Different plants have different sizes, shapes, textures and even colors of seeds. Observe each seed and record your observations in the chart below.



Wheat



Cantaloupe



Popcorn



Cherry Tomato



Bush Beans

Seed Observation Chart

Seed Type	Sketch of Seed	Observation Notes: Size, Color, Shape, and Texture