



# Read & STEAM

## My Family's Soybean Farm



### Lesson Summary

Students will learn about soybeans through the book *Full of Beans* and a “beanie baby” activity

### Grade Level

k-5

### Length of Lesson

45 minutes

### Materials

- One jewelry sized resealable bag for each student (found in craft stores)
- Crystal Soil (found at most garden centers)
- Hole punch
- Water
- Measuring spoons
- Soybeans (enough for two per student)
- Yarn

### Reading Guide

1. Introduce the story using these questions **(2 min)**
  - a. Have you ever seen a soybean?
  - b. What do we use them for?
  - c. “Today we will learn what a soybean is and what we use them for!”
2. Read *My Family's Soybean Farm* by Katie Olthoff **(10 min)**
3. Reflect on the story with these questions **(3 min)**
  - a. What is a soybean?
  - b. What are three steps the family took to grow the soybeans?
  - c. What can we make with soybeans?
  - d. “The first stage in the life cycle of a plant is germination, where the sprout begins to grow from the seed. We are going to germinate our very own soybean in a necklace we can wear!”

## Vocabulary

**Germination:** the development of a plant from a seed after a period of dormancy

**Crop Scouting:** the process of regularly observing and checking crops in a field to monitor their health and growth

## Additional Lesson

### Links

- Matrix lessons
  - [Bean Seed Cycle](#)
  - [Full of Beans: Henry Ford Builds a Car](#)
  - [Oilseed Crops](#)
- Other Resources
  - [Wisconsin Grown + Raised Soybean Poster](#)
  - [Soybean STEAM Lesson Plans](#)

## Standards

NALO:

T4.3-5.d

T5.K-2.b

T5.K-2.d

T5.3-5.c

T5.3-5.f

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## Beanie Babies

### 1. Begin Beanie Baby activity (25 min)

- a. Punch a hole in the top of your bag (above the seal)
- b. Place ¼ teaspoon of crystal soil into the bag
- c. Add one tablespoon of water
- d. Gently push in two soybeans
- e. Seal your bag firmly
- f. Insert the yarn in the hole to make a necklace
- g. Wear your Beanie Baby around your neck and under your shirt to keep it in a warm, dark place
- h. Check your Beanie Baby each day for germination

### 2. Review the activity with these questions (5 min)

- a. What is a soybean?
- b. What is the first stage in their life cycle?
- c. What can we make with soybeans?
- d. “Next time you are driving by a soybean field, think about all of the ways we use soybeans every day!”

**\*\*What is Crystal Soil?** Crystal soil (a.k.a. soil moist) is water absorbent polymer beads, which can absorb and hold up to 80-150 times of its volume of water for a long period of time. As a reservoir, crystal soil stores water and releases the water whenever the plant needs it. Crystal soil can be used for potted plants, both indoor and outdoor. It is non-toxic, odor free, and environmentally safe. If crystal soil is not available, a cotton ball can be used or jelly marbles.