

Growing Pumpkins in the Classroom

What's Inside that Seed?

Objective: Students will observe the embryo of a seed.

You'll need: Pumpkin seeds (enough so that each student has one) water, shallow dish, hand magnifiers

Procedure:

1. Discuss with students the conditions needed for seed germination: moisture, temperature, Is soil a requirement? Why or why not?
2. Explain the role and importance of the plant embryo.
3. Place a moistened paper towel in a shallow dish. Cover with pumpkin seeds. Cover with another paper towel and a small amount of water.

The next day:

4. Direct students to examine the damp seeds with magnifiers, observing the embryo. Have students illustrate, label, and write about their findings.

Ziplock Success!

Objective: Students will observe germination of pumpkin seeds.

You'll need: seeds (clean and dry), ziplock bags, potting soil, permanent marker.

Procedure:

1. Have each student label his/her bag with a permanent marker. They should include the variety of pumpkin planted and the date.
2. Place a small amount of potting soil in each bag and add several seeds.
3. Add a small amount of water and zip the bag closed.
4. Hang bags up in the classroom and observe. They should require no further care.
5. Record changes noted over the next week. Send the young plants home to be transplanted.

NOTE: This can also be done by substituting a moistened paper towel for the potting soil.