Seed Investigators
A lesson from the New Jersey Agricultural Society
Learning Through Gardening program

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