

Seed Investigators

A lesson from the New Jersey Agricultural Society Learning Through Gardening Program

Objective: 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 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 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 student 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, five, 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

