

# Lesson 4: Seed Germination Experiment

## Scratching the Surface:

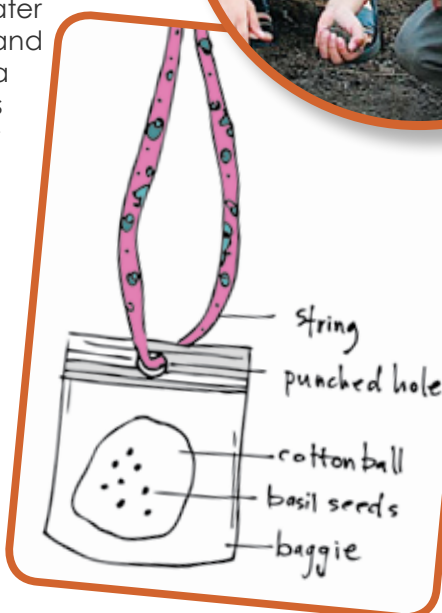
Give each student a pinch of basil seeds and ask, "What is seed germination?"

Having them still hold the seeds, watch a short video clip of a black bean germinating.

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/4hplantandsoils/soilsolutions.html>

What did the students observe? What do they think seeds need in order to grow? List their ideas.

Take a water dropper and squeeze a few drops onto their seeds.



Wait a few minutes and the seed coat should start to break down and form what looks like mucus. Tell the students that the basil seeds are starting to germinate.

To observe the process of seed germination, make a germination necklace. Give each student a small craft plastic bag with a hole punched in the top, a cotton ball, and a string. Demonstrate dipping the cotton ball into water, gently squeezing the excess water, and putting the basil seeds on the ball and slipping it inside the baggie. Thread the string through and tie around the neck. The germination necklaces will let students observe the basil seed growth. Dried beans also work very well for this exercise. They are readily available at a grocery store and are big enough to observe easily.

1 CM

2 CM

3 CM