

All About Seeds

Ever wonder what is inside a seed? Soak lima bean seeds in water overnight. Then gently remove the seed coat on the outside of the seed. This coat protects the seed. Separate the two halves of the seed. What do you see on one of the halves? Actually, this is a baby lima bean plant. The parts of the baby plant will grow into roots, stem, and the leaves of the plant. What will the baby plant use for food? The material in the seed is the food needed by the baby plant until the plant can use sunlight and make its own food.

Draw the parts of the lima bean seed in your science journal (see below).

What You Need

lima bean seeds potting soil
paper or plastic cups (about 8oz)

Planting Your Seeds

1. Print the following on 4 cups: sunlight, dark, dry, and soggy.
2. Place potting soil in each cup. Leave about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of space at the top.
3. Plant 1 seed in each cup. Push the seeds about 1 inch into the soil and cover them. Gently tap down the soil.
4. Water the seeds in each cup. Do not over water them. Place them in a warm location. They do not need sunlight yet. Predict how long it will take for the plants to begin growing (germinate).
5. Once the plants start to grow, place the “sunlight” plant near a sunny window and give it normal amounts of water. Give the “dark” plant normal amounts of water, but keep it in a closet or in a closed box. It can receive light only when it is being watered. Place the “dry” plant in sunlight, but do not water it. Keep the “soggy” plant in sunlight, but keep it so wet that you see water at the top of the soil.



Keep a Science Journal

Predict what will happen. Which seeds grow well? Which seeds do not? Keep a journal. Make a chart. Draw how the plants look. Record in your journal for at least 3-4 weeks.

On the Internet

Draw a line about 12 inches long. That’s about the length of the world’s largest seed. Now make a dot. The world’s smallest seeds are smaller than the dot. You need a microscope to see them. Can you use the Internet and find the names of these seeds?