

Plant Growth Lab

We all know that plants use sunlight to grow. But do they NEED sunlight? What about soil? In this lab, we will make hypotheses about plant growth, and then plant seeds to test these hypotheses.

Materials:

Sprouted seed (12 total)

Paper towel

One clear beaker

Two cups with soil

Water

Methods:

Wet the paper towel. Place it in the clear beaker. Put three seeds on the outside of the paper towel, up against the glass of the beaker. Place three seeds inside the beaker, and cover with more paper towel. These will be your **light/no light** conditions with **no soil**.

In the soil filled cups, plant three seeds in each, about an inch down. Lightly water these. One of these will be your **soil, dark** condition, and one will be **soil, light**. Place your **soil, light** and **light/no light, no soil** containers on the windowsill. Give your **soil, no light** cup to one of the teachers, who will place it in a darkened area.

Write down your hypotheses for which seeds will grow best in **SOIL**, which will grow best in **NO SOIL**, and which will grow best **OVERALL**.

Beginning tomorrow, you will check on these plants every other day, and write your observations down in your lab notebook. When/if your plants begin to grow, please **MEASURE** them with a ruler and record how tall they are. Please do not forget to water the plants once or twice a week – don't let the soil or paper towel get dry! At the end of the lab, we will combine results and see if your hypotheses were confirmed or denied.