



Let's grow a bean in a glass jar!

Ever wondered how a seed transforms into a plant? What happens under the ground? Carry out this simple investigation to see the germination process first-hand.

Prepare

What do I need to grow a bean in a glass jar?

- A broad bean seed
- Glass jar
- Cotton wool or kitchen roll
- Water

Glossary

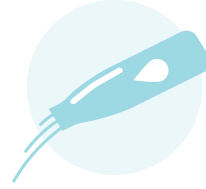
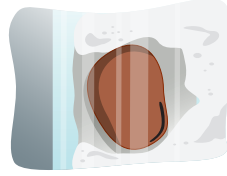
Germination: this is the sprouting of a seedling from a seed.

Quiz!
What is the percentage of water in a bean?

Answer on the back of the sheet

Set up

How do I set up the investigation?



1. Swirl a small amount of water around in the glass jar.
2. Put a hand-full of cotton wool or kitchen roll into the glass jar.
3. Place the bean into the glass jar, nestled to the side so you can see the root growth when it begins.
4. Add a little water.
5. Place the glass jar in a sunny spot, such as on the windowsill.



Nurture

How do I take care of my seed?

1. Spray water on your bean every two days.
2. If your windowsill is very sunny, you may need to water it daily to keep the cottonwool or kitchen roll moist.



Investigate

How long will it take to grow?

1. A seedling should start to sprout after a few days. This is called germination.
2. It will grow quickly, so check to see what is happening each day.
3. It will take around 4 weeks for your seed to grow into a full-sized plant.

Extension ideas

Try growing two beans. Place one in a sunny spot and the other in a dark cupboard. Record what happens. Why did you get these results?

Try running the investigation without using any water. Record what happens. Why did you get this result?