

NAME _____

DATE _____

Seed Germination

The seed is an important part of a seed plant's life cycle. Have you ever planted a seed? What happens when a seed sprouts (germinates)? Let's explore and find out.

Seed Structure

You will need a soaked bean seed and a hand lens.

Examine a lima bean that has been soaked in water. Find the seed scar. This is where the seed was attached to its mother plant. Use your fingers to remove the skin of the seed. This skin is the seed coat. Look at the rounded edge of the seed. The seed is made of two halves. Use your fingernail to open the seed. Use a hand lens to examine the inside of each seed half. Most of the seed is made up of the two seed leaves. The embryo (baby plant in a resting state) is attached to one of the seed halves. Below, draw and label the seed half with the plant embryo.

Seed Germination

Use a plastic spoon to fill a cup with moist potting soil. Use a pencil to make a planting hole on each side of the cup and plant a bean seed in each hole. Cover the seed. Make a drawing of your cup and planted seed below.

Leave your cup in the place indicated by your teacher. Observe your cup each day and make drawings of your seed as it changes.

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