

Carolina Quick Tips®

Wisconsin Fast Plants® Necklace

Wisconsin Fast Plants® grow and develop rapidly, which makes them ideal for classroom plant life cycle activities. This activity allows you to observe and record root and shoot development and create a unique seed necklace. Prepare to be amazed by the growth rate of this tiny plant.

- **TEKS HS**

B.c.12.B: Explain how the interactions that occur among systems that perform functions of transport, reproduction, and response in plants are facilitated by their structures.

- **TEKS MS**

6.b.8.B: Describe how energy is conserved through transfers and transformations in systems such as electrical circuits, food webs, amusement park rides, or photosynthesis.

Materials Required

Wisconsin Fast Plants® Seeds (158804)

Bottle Cap Pendant

Paper Towels

Glass Circle

Water

Pipette

Poster Putty

String

Plastic Data Table Strip

Safety

Follow and model basic laboratory safety rules. Make sure that students do not drink the ethanol. (It has been denatured and, therefore, is doubly dangerous.)

Activity Procedure

1. Take a piece of string, and thread it through the circle of the bottle cap to make a necklace.
2. Place 2 round paper towel circles inside the bottle cap pendant.
3. Using a pipette, moisten the paper towel circles with a few drops of water.
4. Place 2 to 3 Wisconsin Fast Plants® seeds on top of the moist paper towel circles. Space the seeds apart to allow them sufficient room to grow.
5. Place a glass circle over the seeds.



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6. Place a small piece of poster putty between the edge of the glass circle and the inside edge of the bottle cap. Place another small piece of putty on the opposite side of the glass circle. This will hold the glass in place on top of the seeds inside the bottle cap.
7. As the seeds germinate over the next 3 days, record the date and time of the observations indicated on the data table strip. A data table template is provided below to reproduce and use when doing this activity with your students.

	Start	1st Sign of Change	1st Sign of Root	1st Sign of Shoot
Date				
Time				

8. Ensure the paper towel circles stay moist during germination. Use a pipette to periodically drip a small amount of water around the edges of the glass circle.

Results/Summary

Wisconsin Fast Plants® germinate and develop roots and shoots quickly. Once these structures can be seen, carefully remove the glass circle. Using forceps, remove the seeds from the paper towel and plant in soil to observe further plant growth. Continue to measure the growth of the plants and record the development of other plant structures. What factors play an important role in seed and plant development? What will be required for these plants to produce additional seeds? After the plants have flowered, remove a flower from 1 plant, press it, and place it inside the bottle cap, securing the glass circle over it to create a Wisconsin Fast Plants® flower necklace.

Additional Information

View more information, content links, and products related to this activity at www.carolina.com/takeaways.