



Seed Tapes

Goal

Students will learn proper seed spacing for planting in the garden.

Curriculum Alignment

Find a list of which Common Core State Standards and NC Essential Standards this lesson plan aligns with on the lesson plan page at www.growing-minds.org.

Materials

- Paper towels (or other biodegradable paper)
- Cornstarch paste
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Seeds
- Q-tips or paintbrushes

Preparation

Make the cornstarch paste the night before the activity. In a small pan, dissolve 1 tablespoon of cornstarch in 1 cup of cold water. Cook over a medium flame, stirring constantly to prevent the mixture from getting lumpy. Once it starts to boil and turns into a translucent gel-like mixture, remove it from the stove and let it cool to room temperature. Put the paste into a container with the tight lid.

Cut paper towels into 2-3 foot long strips that are about 1/2 - 3/4" wide. The amount of paper towel strips needed will vary depending on how many seeds you are preparing for planting in your garden.

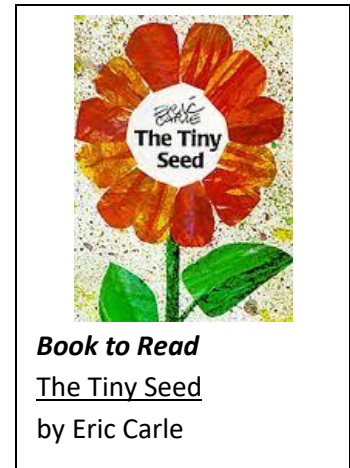
Activities

Discussion

Use seed packets to show students that each seed has suggested spacing on the packet. Discuss why seeds need space and what happens if there are too many seeds crowded together.

Make Seed Tapes

Step 1. Students choose which seed they would like to make a seed tape with. This works best if one seed variety is used per paper towel strip.



Book to Read

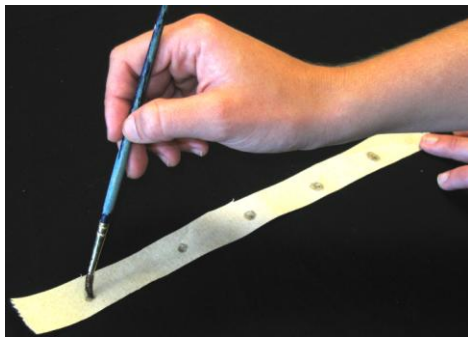
The Tiny Seed

by Eric Carle



Seed Tapes

Step 2. Determine correct spacing for the seed based on the information provided on the seed packet. Students will use a pencil and ruler to mark correct spacing on the paper towel for their seed type.



Step 3. Use a q-tip or paintbrush to spread small dots of cornstarch paste on each of the pencil marks.

Step 4. Place 1-2 seeds on each dot of paste.



Step 5. If needed, cover the seeds with a little more cornstarch paste to make sure the seeds stick. Set them in a place where they can dry.

Step 6. Plant the seed tapes in the garden. Using the planting depth directions on the seed packets, the entire seed tape can be planted in the garden. The paper towel and cornstarch will decompose and the seeds will be able to germinate.