



A Pole Bean Tent

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Phonics Skill

Prefixes pre-, mid-, over-, out-

outdoors outline outside midpoint presoak
overcrowded midsummer overgrown overhead





Do you have a green thumb? Then try gardening for a fun way to spend time outdoors. You can get lots of fresh air—and things to eat. Think about what you can grow: peas, peppers, carrots, berries, and more.

I think beans are best. You can eat them and play with them as well. That's right, play with them. Here's how.





 First, go to a garden shop and pick up a packet of pole bean seeds. Also get six thin poles, each at least six feet long.

Next, set up the planting space in the garden. On the ground, outline a circle three feet wide. Then pull weeds and turn over the dirt inside the circle with a garden fork.





Rake the ground flat. Then place six poles around the outside of the circle with their tops leaning into the midpoint. Leave a bigger space between two poles. Why? Wait and see!

Tie the pole tops with string. Now you've got a pole frame.





When days start getting hot in late spring, presoak your bean seeds. Plant them by placing six beans at the base of each pole and poking them an inch into the ground. Place dirt over them and water them daily.

In less than ten days, your bean plants will sprout.





When the bean plants are three inches high, thin them out. Take out the little ones, and leave three strong plants at each pole. The plants must not be overcrowded.

Keep sprinkling them with water, and see how fast they grow. Your plants will race up the poles.





 By midsummer your bean plants will reach pole tops. The frame will be overgrown with big leaves and bright flowers. These flowers will turn into beans you can eat.

Now can you see why you left space between two poles? It's an opening for your pole bean tent!





Your bean tent is like a house with leaves and flowers growing overhead. It is a place for shade on a hot day. It is a place to play hide-and-seek or just sit inside and read.

And it has plenty of green beans to pick and eat!

