



## Garden in a Glove

### Description:

This simple lesson gives students an opportunity to investigate and observe how a seed sprouts. It is always a good idea to read an age-appropriate book about plants (some listed at left). Then, ask students what they know about plant needs. Can they survive without water? Soil? Sunlight? Do plants need some things as adults that they do not need in the seed/ sprout stage? Why?

### Directions:

1. Write your name on the palm section of a clear plastic glove with a permanent marker. Also label each finger with a type of seed. Suggested seeds are radish, pea, kidney bean, sunflower, alfalfa, soybean, cucumber, or squash. Use something you can later plant in a bucket, school yard, or garden bed.
2. Dip five cotton balls in water. Give each cotton ball 3 flat squeezes to wring out excess water.
3. Place 3-5 seeds on a small paper plate or paper towel and pick up the seeds with a moistened cotton ball.
4. Put the cotton ball with the seeds attached into the matching labeled finger in your glove. You may need to use a pencil to get the cotton ball all the way to the tips of the glove fingers. For large seeds like pumpkins, use only two seeds.
5. Repeat the seed pick-up and depositing in the glove with the additional cotton balls and seeds.
6. Tape the glove to a window, chalkboard, or wall. A clothesline with clothespins will work.
7. Depending on what seeds are used, germination will take place in 3-5 days. The cotton balls should stay moist through germination. If one or more appear dry you can add a little water with an eyedropper or spray bottle.
8. Germinated seeds can be transplanted in 1-2 weeks. Cut the bottom off each finger and pull out the germinated seeds (cotton ball and all), and transplant into a container with soil.



**Grade Level:** K - 5

**Essential Skills:** 1, 3, 5

**NGSS:** 1-LS3-1, 5-LS1-1, 2-LS2-1, 1-ESS1-2, 3-LS1-1, 4-LS1-1

**CCSS:** RI.1.1, W.1.8

**Math:** MD.3

**Time:** 1 class period, with a couple weeks until plants are ready to be planted in soil

### Materials:

**Garden in a Glove Kit\*** or:  
Clear Plastic Gloves (1 for each student)\*  
5 Cotton Balls per student\*  
5 different types of seeds, each student gets one of each type\*  
Permanent Markers

\*Order your free kit with all materials; available to Oregon educators from our Lending Library: [Garden in a Glove Kit](#)

### AITC Library Resources:

Check out these materials online at AITC's Lending Library:

### Books:

*Seed, Soil, Sun*  
*Oh, Say Can You Seed?*  
*How a Plant Grows*  
*Planting a Rainbow*  
*Plant Plumbing*

### Other Seed/Plant Kits:

Living Necklaces  
Seed, Soil, Sun and See Them Sprout  
Growing Bracelets