

Kernel Kids

Science

Materials

Jewelry-sized resealable plastic bags (found in craft stores)
Crystal soil (found at most garden centers) - water holding polymer
Hole punch
Water
Measuring spoons
Wheat kernels
Yarn

Overview

Wheat is the number three crop commodity in Kansas but we are known for being the “Wheat State.” Wheat products are found in hundreds of items we buy at the grocery store. Students will make their own “kernel kid” necklace so that they are able to watch their wheat germinate and grow.

Objectives

1. Students will understand the value of the wheat kernel.
2. Students will create a “kernel kid” necklace that will allow them to watch their wheat germinate and grow.

Background Information

Wheat hasn't always looked the way it looks today. The two ancient forms of wheat were called einkorn and emmer. Scientists over the years have bred wheat to become the plant it is today. The first wheat on record for being planted was around 8,000 B.C. The first area we know where wheat was grown was Southwest Asia in countries such as Iraq, Turkey, Syria, and Iran. In the late 1400s, the explorer Christopher Columbus brought wheat to North America when he discovered the West Indies. In the 1500s, Spaniards brought wheat to Mexico by boat. In the 1600s, Mexican settlers continued to explore north by covered wagon and finally wheat was introduced and grown in the United States. The first record of wheat being grown in Kansas was in 1839 in the current day Johnson County area.

Grade Level: 4-5

Time: 50 min.

Standards: Science

*For Kansas standards, visit
www.ksde.org*



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Instructional Format

1. Share background information with students.
2. Students will follow procedures to make a Kernel Kid.
3. Upon completing the lesson, students will discuss the activity and observe their wheat for germination and growth for 7-10 days.

Procedures

1. Punch a hole in the top of a small plastic bag, above the seal.
2. Place $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of polymer into the bag.
3. Add one tablespoon of water.
4. Gently push in two wheat kernels.
5. Seal the bag firmly.
6. Insert the yarn to make a necklace.
7. Encourage students to wear the Kernel Kids around their necks and under their shirts to keep it in a warm, dark place.
8. Check your Kernel Kid each day for germination and record the growth.
9. If you desire, transplant the sprout to a soil-filled cup and continue to watch the growth.

Want More Extensions?

This activity can also be done with other seeds. Try using a variety of seeds and compare germination rates over the same period of time for each seed used.

Terra Nova Lesson Plan: *Wheat News*

http://www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/TerraNova/clr_wheatnews.pdf

Utah State University Publication: *Crop Physiology Laboratory*

http://cpl.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/pub__6823289.pdf

Celebrate Wheat Lesson Plan

http://www.ksagclassroom.org/teachers/lesson/celebrate_wheat.pdf



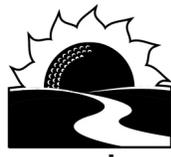
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Growth Stages of Kansas Wheat

