

The Wonderful World of Seeds

A worksheet for Year 2

Seeds and the plants they grow into are a very important part of our diet. Seeds come in many different shapes, sizes, colours and textures and they can be wonderful to look at, feel and taste.

Look at the seeds on this page - How are they alike? How are they different? Do you think the appearance of the seed is similar to the plant it grows into?



Created as part of **Botany on your Plate**, funded by the City Bridge Trust.



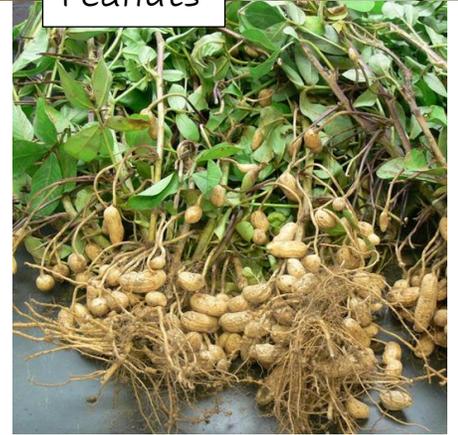
Maize



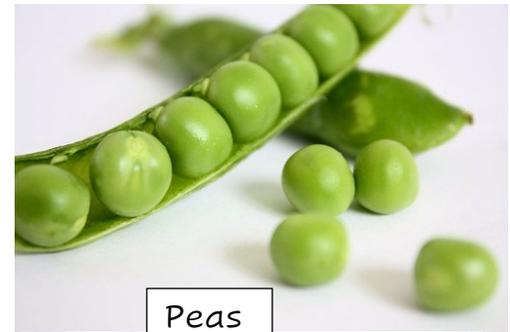
Peanuts



Rice



Poppy



Peas



Sunflower



Try planting some of your own seeds

Equipment needed: compost, small pots (yogurt pots or paper cups work well), shallow trays, seeds and water.

- Pierce some small holes in the bottom of your pots so the water can drain and keep all your pots in a shallow tray so the water doesn't leak everywhere.
- Fill your pots $\frac{3}{4}$ full with compost.
- Remember seeds need moisture and warmth to germinate and grow. After germination, they will need more water AND light – make sure you keep your pots in a warm, sunny spot and keep watering them.
- Don't worry if all your seeds don't germinate – they may have been damaged or have something wrong with them.

Pumpkin seeds



Pumpkin seeds make a really nutritious and delicious snack. Scoop the seeds out from the inside of your pumpkin, give them a wash and lay them out to dry on some paper towel. Allow them to completely dry out. When they are ready, push an individual seed into each little pot of compost, give them some water and keep them in a warm, sunny spot. They should germinate in 7-10 days.

Pepper seeds

Collect seeds from a mature red pepper if possible. Scrape out the seeds and leave them to dry on a paper towel. Once they are dry, push 2-3 seeds into each little pot of compost, keep them in a warm place and water often. Germination can take up to 14 days.



Tomato seeds



Scoop out the seeds from the very ripest tomatoes you can find. Put them in a fine sieve and give them a rinse in some fresh water. You will need to dry your clean seeds for a couple of weeks now by placing them on some paper towels and leaving them in a warm, dry place. Sprinkle 2-3 seeds into a little pot of compost and make sure they are completely covered with more compost. Give them a little water and wait for them to germinate 5-10 days later.

Avocado stones



The seed of an avocado is large and known as a 'stone'. Use the stone from a fully ripe avocado, wash it and soak it in warm water for 48 hours. Keep the water warm by placing the container on or near a radiator. After that, submerge the base of the stone (the rounder end) by using toothpicks to support it over a jam jar filled with water. The water level needs to stay just above the base of the stone,

so top up with warm water daily. You can wrap the jar with newspaper so that the growing root isn't too exposed to sunlight. Keep your avocado in a warm place. The root will develop first and can take between 10 days to 5 weeks to germinate. An avocado seed is tricky to germinate, so don't give up if your first attempt doesn't work! Once the roots are large and well developed, you can transfer your avocado seedling to a pot with compost and watch it grow bigger!