

Little Sprout

Question

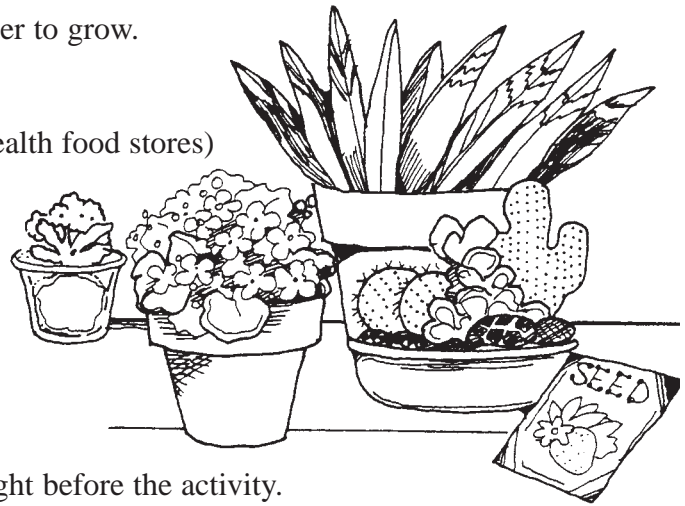
What is a producer?

Setting the Stage

- Have students brainstorm what the word *producer* might mean. Ask them if they have ever heard the word used before and in what way. Make a class list of all the ideas and uses.
- Show students a variety of plants. Using pictures, actual plants, or a combination of both, have students compare the plants and list what they have in common.
- Discuss with students what plants need in order to grow.

Materials Needed for Each Group

- alfalfa or bean sprout seeds (can be found at health food stores)
- glass or jar
- cheesecloth or fine netting
- rubber band
- water
- data-capture sheet (page 15), one per student



Procedure

1. Have students soak some seeds in water the night before the activity.
2. Then have students secure the cheesecloth or netting over the top of their jars with rubber bands so that it droops slightly in the center.
3. ___Ask the class to compare the seeds that have been soaked overnight with the seeds that are dry. Discuss what is happening to the seeds.
4. Allow students to place a teaspoon (13 g) of seeds on top of their cheesecloth or netting. Have them carefully rinse the seeds with a small amount of water, leaving the rinse water in the bottom of the jar.
5. Have students put the seeds in a dark place overnight and complete Part I of their data-capture sheet.
6. Everyday, students should carefully rinse the seeds with water, keeping them in a dark place until the sprouts have reached 1"-2" (2.5-5 cm). Students can record their observations on their data-capture sheets by sketching what they observe in the appropriate area.
7. When the sprouts have reached 1"-2" (2.5-5 cm), have students stop rinsing them and put the sprouts in a sunny place. Continue to observe and record the growth of the sprouts on your data-capture sheets for up to ten days.

Extensions

- Have students grow other types of producers.
- Have students plant sprouts in soil and see what happens.

Closure

In their ecology journals, have students describe what a producer is.

Little Sprout *(cont.)*

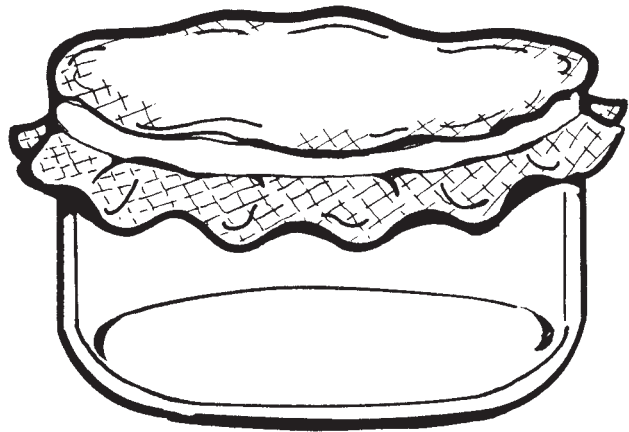
Fill in the information needed.

Part I:

Predict what will happen to the seeds.

I predict that _____

Draw a picture of what the seeds look like on top of the glass or jar.



Part II:

Observe your seeds daily and sketch what you see. Remember to use color.

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Day 6

Day 7

Day 8

Day 9

Day 10