Germination Journal

In this lesson, children will learn how to conduct an experiment by discovering the most productive germination method and recording the findings.

BACKGROUND:

Seeds remain dormant or inactive until conditions are right for germination. All seeds need water, oxygen, and proper temperature in order to germinate. Some native seeds require heat exposure before they can germinate and some require to be put in water to soak before they will germinate.

MATERIALS:

- Seeds
- Cardboard egg carton
- A shallow tray
- Paper towels
- Plastic bag
- Tape
- Potting soil
- Small spray bottle
- Notebook (see next page)

PROCEDURE:

- Have a discussion as a family about which seeds you will choose and which methods you will use to germinate the seeds. Use at least two different seed types and two different germination procedures for true comparison. Write in the notebook which method you feel will work best. Remember to add the date that your experiment began, when the seeds germinated, and which method was most successful.
- Here are two different germinating methods to try. See if you can research other ways to try in future experiments!
  - **Method One:** Put egg carton in the shallow tray for stability. Fill the empty egg spaces halfway with potting soil. Add seed into the egg spaces and cover with soil. Spray with water every day and record findings in notebook.
  - **Method Two:** Wet a paper towel and fold it into a ziplock plastic bag. Place the seeds along one side of the bag, pressing them against the paper towel. Spray water on top until the paper towel is fully saturated. Seal the bag tightly, and hang in a window using tape. Make sure the seeds are visible on the side of the window where the kids will be observing them sprout. Check progress every day and record findings in notebook.

CONCLUSION:

Have a conversation to discuss what other native plant seeds you can germinate and where in your space you would plant them. Research other germination methods to try.

Learn more at:

Conservation Connection IERCD.org

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Scientists keep detailed notes of observations they make. Use the spaces below to keep track of the different seeds and germination methods you observe!

Seed Species: _____

Which germination method do you think will be more successful? Why?

_____

_____

_____

Germination method: _____

_____

Date Planted:_____ Date Germinated:_____

It took_____ days for my seed to sprout.

VS:

Germination method: _____

_____

Date Planted:_____ Date Germinated:_____

It took_____ days for my seed to sprout.

In the end, which method was more successful? Can you guess why?

_____

_____

_____

Seed Species: _____

Which germination method do you think will be more successful? Why?

_____

_____

_____

Germination method: _____

_____

Date Planted:_____ Date Germinated:_____

It took_____ days for my seed to sprout.

VS:

Germination method: _____

_____

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In the end, which method was more successful? Can you guess why?

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