



# MINI GREENHOUSE ACTIVITY

## GOAL

This activity is a challenge to you to grow a variety of plants from seed! You will give the seeds what they need to sprout (called germination) and then take care of your growing seedlings once they have germinated. This handout will help you get started.

## MATERIALS

- Four types of seed such as beans, nasturtium, Swiss chard, kale, lettuce, cilantro
- Potting soil
- Two 6-well egg cartons
- Two plastic trays to catch drainage water
- A sharpie marker to label the type of seed you plant right on the egg carton
- Something to water with (a cup, clean spray bottle with water, a small pitcher...anything will do)



### Resource

We have sourced all seeds from Johnny's Seed Company. To see photos and find out more about the seeds go to: <https://www.johnnyseeds.com/> and type in the variety of seed in the "Search Johnny's" box in the upper right corner.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Follow these steps to provide for your seed's germination needs of **water, air, space, warmth**, and once they have germinated - **sunlight**.

### Add soil and water

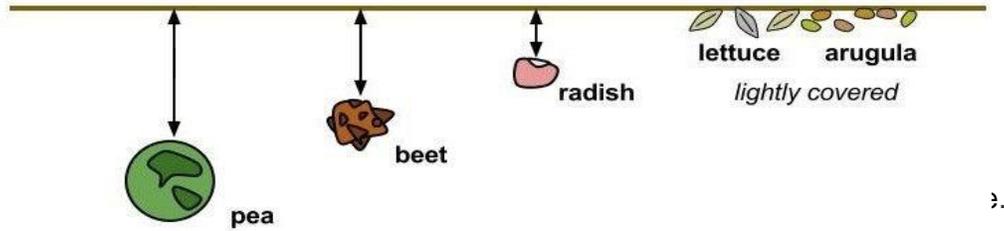
1. Plants need **water** through all phases in their lifecycle, but not too much! Holes have already been made at the bottom of each egg well. It's important for water to drain out the bottom so roots aren't sitting in pooled water. Roots take in water and also need to breathe **air**!
2. Make sure your potting soil is moist by adding water if needed. This means when you squeeze a handful of soil it holds together because there is water in it, but crumbles a little when you let go. It's not sopping wet and doesn't drip. Fill egg cartons so that soil comes to the top of each well.

### Plant and label

3. Plant 1 to 3 seeds per well. A large seed will need more space than a small seed. You can plant more of the smaller seeds, and thin them later to 1 to 2 seedlings. Depth depends on a seed's size.



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4. Write the name of the seed in sharpie directly on the plastic lid where you have planted it. Write the date you sowed the seeds. Close the lid.

## Find a good location and monitor

2. Seeds need warmth and moisture to germinate. Most indoor places should be warm enough for the crops you are planting, especially in the summer!
3. Check your mini greenhouse every day. Condensation is a sign that more ventilation is needed. Open the lid a little more or open all the way. The soil will dry out faster if it is open all the way so check to see when watering is needed.

## Relocate to a sunny spot and keep up the TLC!

4. Once the first seeds germinate, place your greenhouse strategically by a window. A south-facing window with 6-8 hours of sunlight a day is ideal. If you don't have this, that's okay. Use what you have.
5. When plants have germinated and are growing, keep the lid open if you haven't already. Don't forget to check every day to see if you need to water (or even twice a day)! Happy planting!