

THE COMMON TATER

UPDATES + ACTIVITIES FROM THE SCHOOL GARDEN

Kindergarten

Oreo the class guinea pig has something green to look forward to because we started lettuce in the Kindergarten classroom. Yum!

Second Grade

The Second Graders showed off their knowledge of the states of matter, correctly categorizing soil, water, and air (three needs of plants) as a solid, a liquid, and a gas.

Third Grade

Loam, Clay, Sand, Rock. In Third Grade we experimented with different types of soil, testing which would grow a pea seed best.

Fourth Grade

Have you ever watched a seed germinate? In Fourth Grade we built containers to see bean and corn seeds sprout.

Fifth Grade

From the Dust Bowl to today, erosion is a big issue. In Fifth Grade we explored the effects of erosion and ways to prevent it with hay and leaves.



Bringing Spring to the Classroom

Despite inches of snow covering our outdoor garden spaces, Spring is on its way and inside we're getting ready. During the last week of February, classes ushered in spring by learning what plants need to grow, experimenting with soil and erosion, and starting lettuce, onions, and leeks from seed.



Making A Germination Viewing Pot

In Fourth Grade, we learned that during the process called "germination," seeds wake-up and begin sending out roots and shoots. We made special containers to see seeds as they grow. Here are the instructions if you want to try it too!

Materials:

- 1 Clear Plastic Cup or Container
- 2-3 Coffee Filters
- Soil or Sand
- Water
- Seeds

Steps:

1. Label the cup with the date and the name of the plant(s) you'll be growing
2. Place coffee filters inside container and carefully fill coffee filters with soil to keep them pressed against container walls and wet soil
3. Slide seeds in on the outside of the coffee filter
4. Place containers in a warm spot and keep moist
5. Watch your seeds grow!



Photo Synthesis



Word-Find: What do plants need?

T W A T E R M F T P A	
T I N G Q W Z G O S J	• sunlight
M H M U C K J H A E O	• water
S A G E Y E E R A C V	• air
I S L I O S A J E A T	• soil
V T E A L L M F I P I	• time
C A B B E N O S H S A	• space
W R I K A O U D J T O	• care
Q Y A R E B P S E H L	

Volunteers make the garden possible—email Paxton (wpgrant@vt.edu) or Thea (theakm@htcnet.org) to join in!

