

## Home Learning, E-Learning Ideas

Books are a wonderful way to start a learning engagement. Spring is on the way, and with the changing seasons, plants are beginning to grow! In this lesson, we will be exploring the topic of seeds. The first two books are focused on our younger students.

Listen to the book The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mtp0VHJuP4>

Listen to the book Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds by Jean Richards

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZ8VXanJUz8>

### Lesson Ideas for Primary Elementary Students:

- ◆ As you listen to the books, think about seeds. Write or dictate three facts you have learned about seeds from listening to these books. (See sheet on the next page.) Trace the capital letter at the beginning of the sentence in green and the punctuation mark in green.
- ◆ Seeds come in many different shapes and sizes. Listen to Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds again. Use the attached sheet, or divide 4 pieces of paper into thirds. Draw three pictures of fruits with pits, fruits with small seeds, fruits with many seeds, and vegetables that are fruits. Label your pictures.
- ◆ With an adult's help, make fruit prints. Watch the following video for ideas on how to make these prints.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-2fSRR3B8E>

- ◆ Seeds travel in many ways. Divide a piece of paper into four sections. In each box, draw a different way that seeds can travel. Write a sentence explaining how the seed travels. Be sure to check your sentence has a capital letter at the beginning and a punctuation mark at the end.

- ◆ (Check out the following pages for lessons for older students.)

## Three Facts About Seeds

**Fact #1**

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**Fact #2**

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**Fact #3**

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## Fruit With Pits


## Fruit With Small Seeds


## Fruit With Many Seeds


## Vegetables that are Fruits


## Lesson for older students using a picture book—a lesson for older students using articles follows.

Listen to the book *A Seed is Sleepy* by Dianna Hutts Aston. Although this is a picture book, there are many activities older learners can do with the text.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_vElnkJzI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_vElnkJzI)

- ◆ Each section of the book begins with "A Seed is . . .", followed by a descriptive word. Make a list of the words used to describe the seeds. Choose another object and complete the sentences using the same words, also providing an example. For example:  
*A puppy is sleepy, taking long naps on the rug in the sunshine.*  
*A puppy is secretive, hiding his treat behind the couch.*
- ◆ Imagine that a seed is flying over your neighborhood. Using either google maps, or creating your own map, chart what your seed would see as it travels over your block.
- ◆ Try growing a seed you would have normally thrown in the trash. Find a "garbage" seed, such as an avocado pit or an apple seed. Research the best way to plant that seed. Keep a daily chart on the progress of your seed.
- ◆ Go on a seed scavenger hunt. Go in your yard and hunt for seeds. Check trees, shrubs, and flower beds.
- ◆ Many seeds travel miles on their journey from their original plant. Write a story about a seed who travels looking for a new home.
- ◆ Make a flip book that shows a seed's travel. Use the following link for directions on how to make a flip book.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9\\_d1mwf\\_Xw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9_d1mwf_Xw)

- ◆ Design a seed science experiment. What do seeds need to survive? What variable could you change to see how it impacts your seed's germination?

## Lesson for Older Students using articles

- ◆ Provide students with the following prompt.

*Read the articles, "On the Move" and "From Seed to Plant." Write an essay explaining how a seed might move to a new area and, when it reaches its new home, what it needs to successfully transform from seed to plant. Include details from the two texts.*

The two articles follow. Students can read the articles, take notes and then write a paragraph/essay using information from the texts.

After reading the two articles, students may also complete one of the following activities.

- ◆ Imagine that a seed is flying over your neighborhood. Using either google maps, or creating your own map, chart what your seed would see as it travels over your block.
- ◆ Try growing a seed you would have normally thrown in the trash. Find a "garbage" seed, such as an avocado pit or an apple seed. Research the best way to plant that seed. Keep a daily chart on the progress of your seed.
- ◆ Go on a seed scavenger hunt. Go in your yard and hunt for seeds. Check trees, shrubs, and flower beds.
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- ◆ Design a seed science experiment. What do seeds need to survive? What variable could you change to see how it impacts your seed's germination?

We would love to learn how you are doing! Send us pictures or comments at our email:  
darlene-and-terry@writenow-rightnow.com

Do you have books or topics you would like us to address? Send us ideas or requests at  
darlene-and-terry@writenow-rightnow.com



## *From Seed to Plant*

By: Write Now – Right Now

Like humans, plants are living things, and, like humans, plants grow and reproduce during their lifetime. Most plants start from a seed buried in soil and grow to become a mature plant. Also, like humans, plants follow a process, or a life cycle, as they start new life.

Most plants start with a seed. Inside the seed is the embryo. The embryo is the part of a seed that contains the earliest forms of a plant's main parts such as the roots, the stem, and the leaves. The outer coating of a seed offers protection to the embryo inside. In order for many seeds to grow, they must be planted in healthy soil. Healthy soil is important as it helps the roots to grow and spread out underground. Soil also helps to support the plant by being an anchor in the ground. Plants absorb water and nutrients from the soil. Nutrients are like vitamins, which helps the plants stay healthy. The sun's heat warms the soil, which also helps seeds to sprout and grow.

A seed must have the right amount of water. The right amount of water helps the plant move nutrients from the soil up through its stems and leaves. This water keeps the plant moist and helps the plant make its own food. However, too much water can hurt the seed. Large amounts of water can rot seeds before they get a chance to grow. If soil gets too much water, the water fills in all of the air pockets in the soil. This means that your plant's roots can't breathe because seeds need space for their roots to grow.

Seeds that have all these things will germinate. When a seed germinates, it breaks through the outer shell of a seed, so its roots can grow in the ground. The stem and leaves can poke through the soil and begin making food. This food helps to feed the plant. When you see the first signs of life from the plant peeking out of the soil, it is called a seedling. A seedling continues to grow. Besides needing healthy soil, water, and sun to grow, plants also need time to grow to its full size.

If you want to start growing plants, make sure you have all the right ingredients for success.

## On the Move

By: Write Now – Right Now

Plants cannot move from place to place on their own, but seeds can! How is that possible? Seeds are scattered across the world in many different ways. When a seed lands on good soil and receives the right amount of water, it will germinate into a plant.

One way seeds travel is to be carried by the wind. These seeds have characteristics which help them travel by air. They are shaped to float, glide or spin through the air. They have parachutes or wings that allow them to fly, and then slow them down as they fall. Some seed pods are even designed to explode and throw the seeds through the air, landing away from the mature plant. If you have ever noticed dandelions in all your neighbor's yard, they were carried there in the wind.

Next, some seeds are great hitchhikers! If you have ever run around in a field and found your socks and shoelaces covered with prickly seeds, you have given these seeds a ride to a new home. Just like your socks, animal fur is another great way for seeds to hitch a ride. Dogs can carry seeds in their fur after playing catch in the park. Some seeds have tiny hooks on them that help them stick to the fur of an animal. When the dog moves to a new place, so does the seed. The seed falls off and grows far away from its original plant.

Additionally, some plants that live in or near the water have seeds that can float. A coconut falls from the tree and lands on a sandy beach. When the tide comes in, the water from the ocean picks up the floating seed. The currents from the ocean move the coconut or seed to another beach, where it can grow into a palm tree full of coconuts.

Finally, there are some seeds that need a little help from an animal friend. Unlike seeds that attach themselves to the fur of an animal, to get started on its journey the seed has to first be eaten. Robins are a great example of this. The bird eats the seeds and then later poops the seeds back out. The seeds finally end up in a pile of natural fertilizer away from the plant the seed called home.

Seeds have many different ways they move from place to place.