

# Testing Seeds for Germination

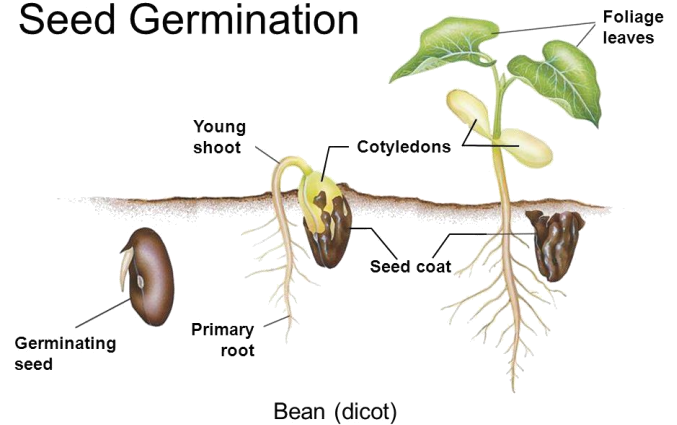
## Objective:

Students will learn how to test seeds for germination and viability to produce a plant.

## Definition:

Germinate: (*verb*) to cause to sprout or develop

## Seed Germination

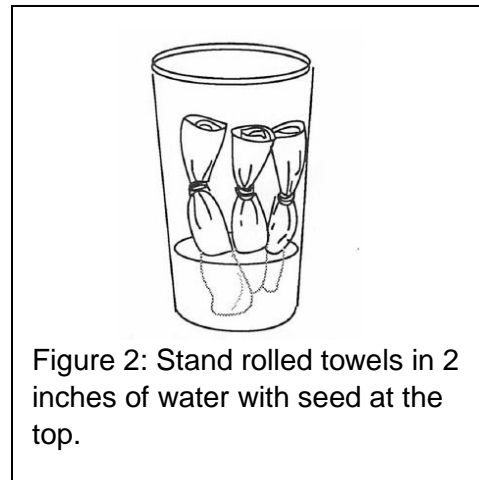
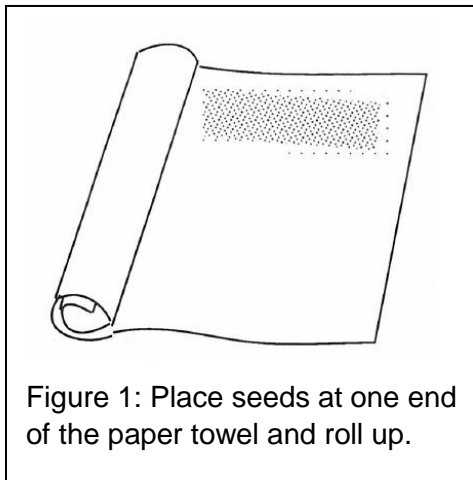


## Activity:

This activity can be completed individually or in a small group. Obtain 10 seeds to test. Place the 10 seeds at one end of a paper towel and roll the paper towel as illustrated in Figure 1. Hold the towel closed with a rubber band. Make sure the rubber band is below the seeds.

Run 2 inches of water in a container and stand the paper towel in the container with the seeds up as illustrated in Figure 2. Be sure the seeds are well above the water.

Place the container in a warm place for one week. Unroll the paper towel and count the number of seeds that have germinated. Complete the record sheet to determine the percent of seeds that germinated.



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# Germination Record Sheet

Name of Vegetable:	
Number of Seeds Used:	
Total Days of Observation:	
Number of Seeds germinating at last observation:	
Percent Germination:	

$$\frac{\text{Number of seeds germinating}}{\text{Number of seeds used}} \times 100 = \text{percent germination}$$

$$\text{_____} \times 100 = \text{_____}\%$$

The lower the germination rate, the less of a chance that the seed will germinate to produce a plant. If using older seed with a lower germination rate, increase seeding to offset the lower probability of plant production.

What do you think would happen if the paper towel dried out?

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