







Pea-come a scientist

Studying plants can become an interesting hobby for children and perhaps even inspire a few botanists of the future.

Botanists are scientists who study plants, including flowering plants, and plant-like things such as moss and seaweed. Botany is a scientific study of plants along with their growth, structure, and uses.

Botanists may specialise in certain areas of botany. Some important areas of study we are going to use are:

-  Showing, and teaching children how peas grow.
-  Studying how our pea grows and its root system (Rhizotron a laboratory constructed underground in order to study the soil and its roots)
-  Designing a simple growing chart (date/observation/measuring/drawing)
-  Keeping an illustrated diary of the development of the seeds which could be handy for the back to school 'what you did whilst on lockdown' class discussion.

What you will need :

- A handful of Peas
- 1 x recycled glass jar or squash bottle cut in two
- Handfuls of seed compost
- Black paper or newspaper
- Kitchen rolls to act as blotting paper
- Ruler & elastic band





Now its time start our process of observations:

1. Make a roll of kitchen paper and stand it inside the jar.
2. Fill the inside of the kitchen paper cylinder with seed compost. Slide a ruler very gently between the glass and the paper and then put a pea about one third of the way down the jar (it should not be close to the bottom of the jar because you need to see the roots when they develop).
3. Pour a little water into the soil so that the blotting paper is moist, but be careful it needs to be damp not sodden.
4. Wrap the jar with black paper or newspaper, secure with elastic band and place the jar in a cupboard. The pea will then believe it is underground.
5. At regular intervals, check the pea and add a little water as necessary.
6. Once the first two leaves show, remove the paper and put the jar on a windowsill. The plant can then enjoy some sun, but do avoid direct sunlight and make sure you keep it moist.
7. When the shoot is big and has several leaves plant it in a pot or in the garden and wait for flowers to appear. You will notice the flowers have a lovely fragrance and once outside it can attract the garden's insects. Encourage the children to sniff the flowers and to keep an eye on the plant to see who comes to visit it. They can draw what they see and add more information to their diary.
8. When the flowers drop off shoots will appear, these are the beans.

