

ACTIVATE YOUR MIND:

How Do Peanuts Grow?

Did you know that peanuts are not really nuts? Peanuts are legumes, which are related to beans and peas. Nuts grow on trees, while peanuts do not. In this activity, find out how peanuts begin as tiny sprouts and how they grow into plants!

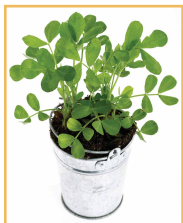


How to Sprout Your Peanuts

What You Will Need: 1) Raw peanuts (unsalted, unroasted, and shelled); 2) Paper towels; 3) One clear screw-top jar (punch holes in the lid); 4) Water

What You Will Do: Help your child to line the jar with paper towels, and to place a few peanuts between the glass and the paper. Add about two to three tablespoons of water and then cover the jar. Keep the jar in a warm place for approximately five days. The peanuts will swell as they soak up the water and then light-green root shoots will grow.

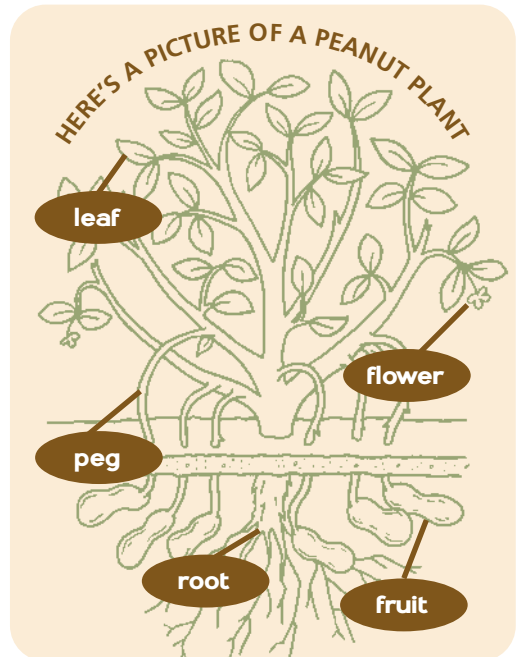
"How to Sprout Your Peanuts" is adapted from the Peanut Company of Australia Web site. Copyright © PCA, 2000-2007.



How to Plant Your Peanut Sprouts

What You Will Need: 1) Three clear jars; 2) Three cups of potting soil; 3) Water

What You Will Do: Place a peanut seedling in each of three jars filled with soil. Keep the jars in a warm place for several days, watering when necessary. Watch your plants grow over time, and help your child compare his or her peanut plants with the drawing to the right.



Peanut plant drawing is reprinted from the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Norman, OK.

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Happy Trails and Have Fun!