

Activity 2: Name that plant

Activity 2 will take two lessons - one for setup, one for observation and results.

- 1) Count the seeds in the mystery packet and share them out. The children should examine the seeds against the Identikit species for clues from their appearance. The Identikit will also help with ideas about the different conditions different seeds need to germinate. How could you use this information to help identify the plants?
- 2) The experiments should use light and at least one other variable and be a 'fair test'. Plant the seeds and make sure all plants and test options are labelled well.
- 3) Seed germination should be observed and recorded. Children should compare the emerging seedling with the Identikit and draw a conclusion on the identity of plant.
- 4) Children should pool their results (identification and germination requirements) and make a display to show the school how they solved the mystery.

Helpful hints

- Draw on children's knowledge of what might be needed for successful germination. They should all know that water will be essential so you should not need to test this.
- You may need to set up some control options to make sure at least some seeds grow.
- The mystery seeds need light for germination. The simplest test would compare germination in complete darkness and in light. A classroom experiment in dishes with seeds sown on wetted paper towel and covered in cling film for the light test and foil for the dark test would reveal this nicely. The seedlings can be potted into newspaper pots to grow on to see the first leaves and so identify the plant.

Resources

What else is in the binder?

- 🌻 Newspaper pot instructions
- 🌻 Species guide for teachers

Things you need to collect

- 🌻 Equipment enough to test out germination of seeds using light and

dark; trays, water sprays, labels and newspaper to make pots

What's in the chest?

- 🌻 Mystery seeds (in mini seed bank)
- 🌻 The Great Plant Hunt Identikit