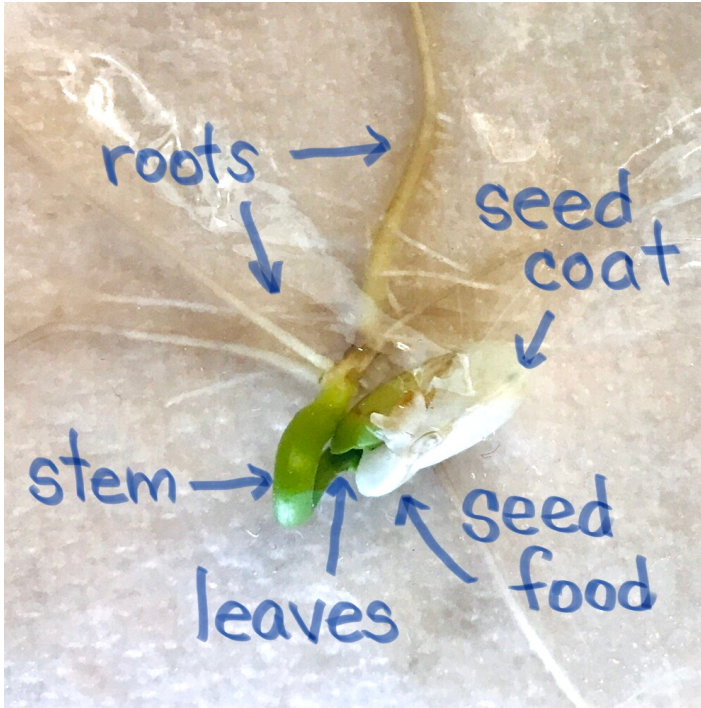


Grow Your Own Bean Plant!

All plants have the same parts: the stem, the leaves, and the roots. All of these parts come from seeds. You can grow your own bean plant and watch as it changes from a seed into a plant!



1. Soak two lima beans in water overnight.
2. Make observations.

Take one lima bean in your fingers and gently rub back and forth. The outer covering of the bean will come off. This is the seed coat. It protects the seed inside from damage.

Once the seed coat is removed, the bean will separate into two parts. The two large sections are the food the plant needs to grow under the soil until it reaches the sun and can begin to make its own food.

Look closely at both pieces. One will have a tiny leaf near its top. The leaf end will grow into the stem, leaves, and flowers. The opposite end will grow into the roots.

3. Grow your own lima bean plant.

Place the second lima bean on a wet paper towel. Put the bean and paper towel in a zip-top plastic bag, spray the bean gently with more water, and close the top of the bag. Place the bag in a sunny location and watch it grow. Add more water when the paper is dry. When the plant is big enough, plant it in some soil so it can keep growing!

What's Going On?

When you placed the lima bean into the plastic bag on a wet paper towel, the seed coat started to loosen, and the seed started to germinate, or sprout. Not all seeds germinate in the same amount of time.

Did You Know?

Each seed contains all the parts it needs to grow into a plant. Seeds spread from one place to another in many ways. They might be carried on the wind or in water, or animals and people might move them from place to place.

Think

What would happen if you soaked and planted a different kind of seed?
What would happen if you left your plant to grow in a dark location?
How tall do you think your plant will grow?

