

Seed Saving

Summary:

In summary, seed saving supports biodiversity, sustainability, and resilience in agriculture, contributing to Educators' Notes environmental conservation and food security.

Materials:

- Various fruits, vegetables, and flowers with seeds (e.g., tomatoes, sunflowers, beans)
- Small containers or envelopes for collecting and storing seeds
- Markers, stickers, and labels
- Gardening gloves
- Gardening tools (if available)
- Large sheets of paper and markers for group discussions and presentations

This activity sheet is aimed at educators, to provide you with information and guidance so that you can lead this activity with your learners.

Key Stage / Age group: It can be easily tailored to any age group - the links below are from the [National Curriculum for England](#).

National Curriculum links (Primary):

KS1 & KS2 - Science

Working Scientifically - please see National Curriculum Guidance for working scientifically objectives

Year 1:

- Plants: identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants.
- Seasonal Changes: observe changes across the four seasons

Year 2:

- Living things and their habitats: identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants and how they depend on each other; identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats including mirror habitats.
- Plants: observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants; find out and describe how plants need water light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.

Year 3:

- Plants: explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant.

Year 4:

- Living things and their habitats: recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways; explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment; recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

Year 5:

- Living things and their habitats: describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird; describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

Year 6:

- Living things and their habitats: describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences including microorganisms, plants and animals; give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.

Time needed: 2 - 3 hours

Location: Outdoors preferably, but you could easily bring the outdoors inside.

Objective: Objective: To introduce the concept of seed saving. This activity plan is designed to be interactive and engaging, allowing children to learn about seed saving through hands-on experiences and discussions.

**Introduction to Seed Saving:**

Seed saving involves collecting, storing, and reusing seeds from plants for future planting. This ancient practice holds key benefits for agriculture and the environment.

Why Seed Saving is Important:

Biodiversity Preservation: Maintains a diverse range of plant varieties, crucial for ecological balance.

Adaptation to Local Conditions: Seeds adapt to local climates, enhancing crop resilience.

Cost-Effectiveness: Reduces the need to purchase seeds annually, promoting self-sufficiency.

Cultural Heritage: Preserves culturally significant plant varieties and associated knowledge.

Environmental Sustainability: Lowers the environmental impact of commercial seed production and transportation.

Education and Empowerment: Teaches responsibility for environmental stewardship and the value of preserving seeds.

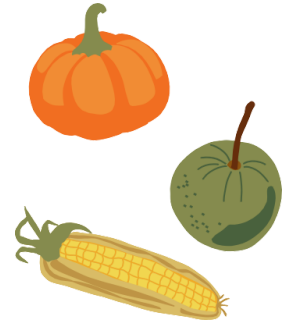
Climate Change Adaptation: Facilitates the cultivation of resilient plants in response to changing climate patterns.

Collecting, storing, and exploring seeds from produce!

Activity Plan:

1. Introduction (15 minutes):

- Begin with a brief discussion about plants, their life cycle, and the role of seeds. Introduce the concept of seed saving and explain why it is important.



2. Observation and Exploration (30 minutes):

- Provide various fruits, vegetables, and flowers for the children to explore.
- Let them examine and discuss the different shapes, sizes, and colours of seeds.
- Discuss where these seeds come from in the plant (fruits, flowers, pods).

3. Seed Harvesting (30 minutes):

- If possible, take the children to a garden or a nearby green area where they can observe plants in their natural habitat.
- Demonstrate how to properly harvest seeds, explaining the importance of selecting healthy and mature seeds.
- Have the children harvest seeds from different plants with supervision.

4. Seed Sorting and Cleaning (30 minutes):

- Back in the classroom or designated area, provide containers for sorting and cleaning seeds.
- Discuss the importance of sorting and cleaning seeds to ensure their viability.
- Encourage teamwork and collaboration during this hands-on activity.

5. Seed Storage (20 minutes):

- Provide small containers or envelopes for each child to store their collected seeds.
- Allow them to decorate the containers with markers and stickers.
- Discuss the best conditions for storing seeds (cool, dry place) and the importance of labelling.

6. Group Discussion (15 minutes):

- Gather the children for a group discussion about their

experience. Ask questions such as:

- o Why is it important to save seeds?
- o How can saving seeds help the environment? What
- o types of plants did they collect seeds from?



7. Presentation (20 minutes):

- Have each child or group present their collected seeds, explaining the plant they came from and why they chose those seeds.
- Encourage creativity and expression in their presentations.

8. Follow-up Activity (optional):

- As a follow-up activity, consider planting some of the collected seeds in a small garden or pots. Discuss the growth and development of the plants over time.

9. Reflection and Closing (10 minutes):

- Ask the children to reflect on what they learned about seed saving.
Emphasise the importance of their role in preserving plant diversity.