

Plants & Sunlight

By Kelly Eggleston

Materials

- 3 Types of Seeds
- 3 Plant Trays
- Water
- Soil
- Tin Foil
- Journal for each student
- “Oh Say Can You Seed” by Bonnie Worth
- Map of Alaska

Suggested grade levels

1-4

Time

About five 45-minute session

Alaska Content Standards

Language Arts B3
Math A2
Science A1-3, C1-3
Geography B1



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Objective

Students will learn how sunlight affects the growth of plants.

Introduction

In this lesson students will learn about the needs of a plant with the focus on sunlight. Students will grow various seeds common to Alaska farms and see how limiting sunlight affects the plant growth. Students will also be asked to think about how Alaska’s daylight affects plant growth.

Procedure

1. Read “Oh Say Can You Seed” and tell students that today we will begin a lesson on growing seeds.
2. With the class make a list of all the things that plants need to grow.
3. Split the class into 3 groups. Give each of the groups these supplies:
 - One Type of Seed
 - Plant Tray
 - Soil
 - Water
 - Tin Foil
4. Demonstrate the process of planting the seeds. Have students take turns doing jobs.
5. Cover one half of the tray with tinfoil and place by a classroom window.
6. Have students make predictions about what they think will happen to the seeds.
7. Watch the seeds grow and have students make observations in their journals every week.

Discussion Questions

- Is there a difference between the plants that are covered and those that are exposed to the light? Why?
- What are Alaska’s summers like? Do things grow in the summer? Why?
- What are Alaska’s winters like? Do things grow in the winter? Why not?

Related AITC lessons

[SunshineExp.pdf](#)
[MiniGreenhouse.pdf](#)

See also Oh Say Can You Seed lessons:

[Samples of Other AITC Lessons > Bakers Dozen/LitLinks > Literature Links Lessons](#)