

Agriculture *in the* Classroom

Time: 30 minutes
Grade Level: K-6

Dirt Babies



Materials Needed

- Knee-high nylons (not reinforced toe) - one per student
- Oregon grass seed
- Potting soil
- Markers
- Plastic cup
- *AITC will provide nylons and grass seed.

Quick Facts:

Oregon is the largest grower of cool-season grasses in the world.

Oregon's grass seed industry averaged over \$507 million in 2007, making it the second ranked commodity in the state.

Directions

1. Using a knee-high nylon, place one teaspoon of grass seed in the toe of nylon where the grass will grow. The toe of the nylon will be the head of the Dirt Baby and the grass will look like hair when it grows.
2. Pack soil on top of the seed. Make sure there is enough soil so the Dirty Baby is slightly bigger than the opening of the plastic cup.
3. Tie a knot in the nylon under the ball of soil. The soil forms a round ball, which is now the head of the Dirt Baby.
4. Draw a face on the Dirt Baby.
5. Place the Dirt Baby, head side up, in a cup filled with water.
6. The nylon tail will wick the water up and saturate the head of the Dirt Baby. In 10-15 days the grass seed will germinate through the nylon forming "hair".
7. Add water the Dirt Baby cup as needed. Cut the "hair" and style as desired.



Resources

Oregon Quality Grass Seed (DVD): Illustrates why Oregon is the Grass Seed Capital of the world. Available from the AITC Free-Loan Library.