

## The seed and germination

### → Teacher Guidance

## Activity 3: Do seeds need water to germinate?

This is a very simple investigation to find out whether seeds need water to germinate.

For details of the technique, see page 6 (Germinating seeds in film pots). The method given uses capillary matting (cut in circles to the size of the pot), but you can use different things in the pot for the seeds to grow on, provided it is absorbent. Examples include blotting paper and cotton wool. The Pupil Sheet on page 7 can be adapted for use with this investigation. A Word file is provided on the SAPS website for you to download and amend to suit your class.

Mustard seed works well (as they germinate in 3 to 5 days), but others can be used, such as wheat. Times for germination may vary at different temperatures.

### The activity

Each child has two clear film pots. They place the damp piece (circle) of capillary matting (or other material, as chosen) in one pot and a dry piece in the other.

After 3 to 5 days, let the children examine the pots. Only the seeds in the pots with damp capillary matting should have germinated.

Remember – you can use the Planning Plant (page 3) to help guide children in your class through the investigation. For this activity, perhaps it would be appropriate to use only part of the planner and to do the planning as a class activity. You could use the planning sheet and work through a **prediction**, the **equipment** needed and how to make this a **fair test**. This is a good activity to make a start on helping the children to adopt a suitable approach to investigations.



### Curriculum links

National Curriculum (Sc2)

QCA guidelines – Scheme of work

Scottish ISE 5-14 framework/attainment targets

**KS2: 3a, 3d**

**Unit 2B; Unit 3B; Unit 5B**

**LT-D2.5**