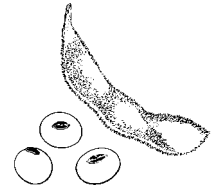


BEANIE BABY



GROW A SOYBEAN IN A PLASTIC BAG



Soybeans are sometimes called the “magic bean” because they can be used to make many things. Soy products are found in hundreds of items we buy at the grocery store. Soy milk, soy flour, textured vegetable protein, and lecithin are all ingredients that come from soybeans and are found in frozen foods, baked items, cake and cookie mixes, candies, cereals, and many other items.

1. Show stalks of soybeans (or soybean plants) to the class and pass around a bag of ripe soybeans. Explain that soybeans are a “renewable resource,” which means they are never “all used up” because more can always be grown.
2. Explain that soybeans are a valuable source of many vitamins and minerals that our bodies need every day. These include calcium, phosphorus, iron, vitamin A, thiamin and riboflavin. People all over the world need these vitamins and minerals, so we ship (export) soybeans grown in our country to countries that can’t grow enough soybeans to provide for their people.

Materials:

- jewelry size resealable bag (found in craft stores)
 - crystal soil (found at most garden centers)
 - hole punch
 - water
 - measuring spoons
 - soybeans
 - yarn
1. Punch a hole in the top of your bag (above the seal).
 2. Place $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of crystal soil into the bag.
 3. Add one tablespoon of water.
 4. Gently push in two soybeans.
 5. Seal your bag firmly.
 6. Insert the yarn to make a necklace.
 7. Wear your Beanie Baby around your neck and under your shirt to keep it in a warm, dark place.
 8. Check your Beanie Baby each day for germination and record the growth.