



DO TRY THIS AT HOME

Kit: Salt Water and Plant Growth

You Will Need:

- 6 seeds (You can use apple seeds or pea seeds or any kind.)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of water
- 1 tablespoon of table salt
- 2 clear containers or bags
- 2 sections of paper towel

Directions:

1. Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water with the salt until the salt has dissolved.
2. Fold one section of paper towel in half, once in each direction.
3. Dip the folded paper towel into salt water, remove it quickly.
4. Fold the other section of the paper towel in the same way and dip into a glass of fresh water.
5. Put three seeds in between the folds of each paper towel.
6. Place the two paper towels with the seeds in them in separate containers. (Find a way to remember which has the salty seeds and which has the regular.)
7. Put the clear containers by a sunny window or outside if it is not really cold.
8. Try Question 1.
9. After a week or two take the seeds out and see which have grown better.
10. Try the rest of the questions.
11. Check out the Explanations section.

Questions:

1. Make A Prediction:

How do you think the salt-water seeds will grow compared to the freshwater seeds?

2. Make Observations:

Which seeds have grown more? Have all the seeds grown?

3. Think About It:

Why do you think this happened?



DO TRY THIS AT HOME

Explanations: Salt Water and Plant Growth

What Should Have Happened:

- You should have seen more growth in the freshwater seeds than the saltwater seeds.

Why It Happened:

- Plants need water and salt to survive, but if the water has too much salt in it they take in the salt too. When they take in salt and water their systems get too much salt and not enough water in them so they start to die or get very unhealthy.

Real World Example :

- There is a lot of water on earth, 326 million trillion gallons. Only a little bit of that water is fresh. In some places, people don't have access to fresh water. So why can't they just drink salt water if we have so much? It's just like with your seeds. People also need salt to survive, but too much salt can be dangerous so people have to drink fresh water in order to stay healthy.

If It Didn't Work:

Maybe you got some very hearty seeds, you can continue watering them with salt water to see if they are affected later if you'd like.