

A Barefoot Lesson Idea

Grow a Gigantic Beanstalk

A BAREFOOT SCIENCE LESSON FOR AGES 3 – 7

Even if you don't have magic beans, you can still grow a beanstalk! Find out how long it takes for a plant to grow and which conditions make the beanstalk grow hearty. Measure your beanstalk as it grows and see how tall it becomes each day. After your beanstalk is big, plant it in a sunny place and watch as it grows beans. Be patient— it will take a few days for your plant to sprout and begin to grow!

WHAT TO FIND

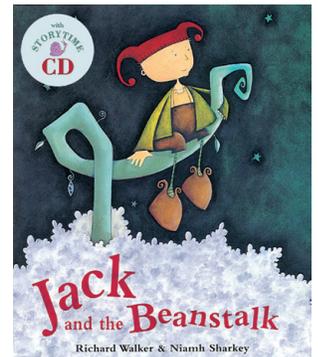
- 1 group of children
- 1 enthusiastic adult
- Bean seeds
- Enough yogurt pots or little flower pots for each bean
- Labels
- A big bag of potting compost
- A watering can or jug with some water
- A sunny window sill

WHAT TO DO

1. Read the story aloud. Ask the children if they've ever grown anything.
2. They are going to plant a bean and see if it grows into a gigantic beanstalk!
3. Give the children a bean and a yogurt pot with some soil.
4. What will the bean need to grow? What did the gigantic turnip need?
5. How will they make sure their bean gets what it needs?
6. Leave the beans to grow. You will need to repot them as they get bigger, and to support the growing bean plant with a stick.
7. **Extension:** Alter the variables, like how much water and soil to use, to see which bean grows best!



Illustrations © Niamh Sharkey from Jack and the Beanstalk



Jack and the Beanstalk

Retold by Richard Walker
Illustrated by Niamh Sharkey
Narrated by Richard Hope

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