

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Botany, Plants,
Recycling, Resources

Materials List

- ✓ Full sheet of newspaper
- ✓ Tube, empty drink bottle with the bottom cut off, or drinking glass, 8 cm – 10 cm (3" - 4") in diameter

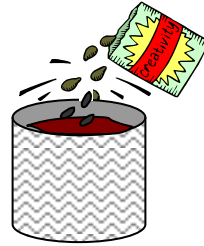
This activity can be used to support the teaching of classroom activities involving growing plants, including:
Next Generation Science Standards:

- Plants & Environment (Grade K, Life Science 1-1, Grade 2, Life Science 2-1)
- Plant structures (Grade 4, Life Science 1-1)
- Plants, matter and energy flow (Grade 5, Life Science 1-1)
- Sun energy becomes food (Grade 5, Physical Science 3-1)



Newspaper Planting Pots

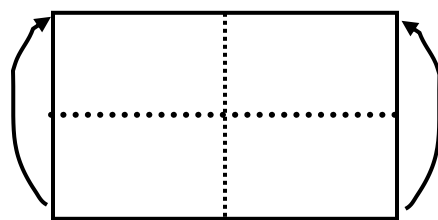
Easy to Make, Environmentally Friendly to Use



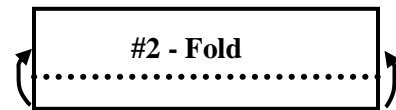
No need to buy pots to run plant investigations in the classroom! Use these simple pots made from newspapers. The best part is that the pots can go right into the ground with the seedlings when the time comes... no need to transplant.

Assembly

1. Fold a full sheet of newspaper in ½ lengthwise.
2. Make another fold about 8 cm (3") in from the folded edge.
3. Place the tube about 10 cm (4") from the unfolded edge and roll the paper around the tube into a cylinder.
4. Starting with the innermost loose corner, fold in the newspaper to the center of the tube. No need to be neat.
5. Pull out the tube from the open end of the cylinder.
6. Use a fist or flat end of a drinking glass to compact and form the closed end of the cylinder from the inside.
7. Secure the pot's shape and form the rim of the pot by folding the top edge over twice.



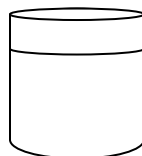
#1 - Fold



#2 - Fold



#3 & 4 - Roll & Stuff



#6 & 7 - Compact the bottom & roll down the top

To Do and Notice

1. Use these pots as you would any pots to grow seedlings for a flower or vegetable garden.
2. When the time comes to plant the seedlings, simply place the whole pot into the ground. The newspaper will biodegrade (break down) in 1-5 months and become part of the soil.

Taking it Further

See the RAFT Idea Sheet *The Germinator* for a seed-sprouting apparatus that allows for easy data collection for shoot and root growth

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=243 for more resources!)