

Earth's Birthday Project's *Sunflower Challenge*



Materials Sunflower seed packets and handout (the reverse side of this page) for each student.

Instructions Send packets and handouts home to families. Every student who grows a sunflower and sends a picture to Earth's Birthday Project wins a prize!

Family Science and Math

Encourage families to do the easy activities described on the handout—a powerful way to boost student enthusiasm for science.

Frequently Asked Questions

- *What's the prize?* Younger students receive a plush dinosaur toy in a starry sleeping bag with a sunflower certificate recognizing their effort.
- *Can I do this activity at school?* Yes! Grow a small field of flowers in your school yard and take a picture of each student next to the plant they nurtured. Mail, fax, or email the photos with a list of student names, and EBP will send prizes for you to distribute.
- *What do you do with the pictures?* We save them for a few years in our archives to document the activity for our auditors, and then we destroy them. We do not publish them without written permission from parent.

Classroom Activities

At earthsbirthday.org/more-bugs/sunflowers

- Flower songs and art activities for PS–4
- Easy experiments with sunflower sprouts for K–6
- Sprout observation activity with handout for grades K–4
- Hands-on photosynthesis and transpiration for grades 5–6

Sunflower Challenge



Note to Families

Earth's Birthday Project invites students to take the Sunflower Challenge. Grow a sunflower and win a prize!

1. Plant sunflower seeds at home in your yard or in a big flower pot.
2. Care for sunflower plants as they sprout and grow.
3. Send a photo of yourself with your flower to—

Earth's Birthday Project
PO Box 1536
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1536

4. Four weeks later, check your mailbox! EBP will send a special surprise to *everyone* who sends a photo.

Here at Earth's Birthday Project our job is to teach children about the Earth—its beauty, resources and conservation. Planting seeds and caring for plants as they sprout, grow and flower is a great way to learn. And it's good for the Earth!

Family Math and Science

Before you plant your seeds, *count* their stripes. Do all your seeds have the same number of stripes? Which seed has the most stripes and which has the least? If you have a magnifying glass, look at the stripes close up. How would you *describe* them as you see them enlarged? *Sprout a seed* by placing it on a dish with a wet paper towel—not too wet! Keep the towel wet for several days. Describe what happens day by day.

We cannot return photographs. If you would like to see your child's photo in the Sunflower Gallery at earthsbirthday.org, please complete and return the permission slip that will come with your prize.