

Lesson Plan

Plant Research Project

Book: *Growing a Beanstalk for Jack*

Series: Fairy Tale Science

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students conduct a short research project about plants and plant life cycles.

Supplies

- *Growing a Beanstalk for Jack* book
- Paper and pencils
- Computer and library access for students
- “How Plants Grow” web page on the DK Findout! website: <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/plants/how-plants-grow/>

Before the Activity

Read *Growing a Beanstalk for Jack*, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Growing a Beanstalk for Jack tells how to do an experiment involving bean plants. It explains how to grow plants in three different ways. The book also gives general information about how plants grow. It talks about the things plants need to grow, the processes plants use to grow, and the different parts of the plant that develop.

Have students conduct a short research project to learn even more about plants and their life cycles. To start, students can read the “How Plants Grow” web page on the DK Findout! website. They can click the labels on this page to find more information about each topic. Students can also look for other websites and books about plants. They can use the “To Learn More” section on page 31 of *Growing a Beanstalk for Jack* for suggestions. Or, they can ask a librarian or other adult for help.

Have students write the facts they find on one piece of paper. Remind students to also write the book or website where they found each fact. Then, have students use their research to write a short essay on another piece of paper. The essay should have three paragraphs:

- One paragraph should describe the parts of a plant.
- One paragraph should describe things a plant needs to grow.
- One paragraph should describe the life cycle of a plant.

Remind students to use complete sentences. They should also make sure to indent the first sentence of each paragraph.

Evaluation

Collect the notes and essays, using the following system to give each student up to 12 points:

- 2 points for writing down notes about plants
- 2 points for recording the book or website where the notes came from
- 2 points for including a paragraph about the parts of a plant
- 2 points for including a paragraph about what a plant needs to grow
- 2 points for including a paragraph about the life cycle of a plant
- 1 point for using complete sentences in the essay
- 1 point for indenting the first sentence of each paragraph

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 3 (W 3.2, 3.7, 3.8), and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard C, grades K–4.