



# BILLINGS

## FARM & MUSEUM

## Bag of Fun!

### Bean Buddies

## Introduction

What does a seed need in order to sprout? Plants need sun, water, air, space, and soil to grow, but a seed needs much less to *germinate* or start growing by putting out sprouts. A seed has a protective coat and food stored inside, so that when growing conditions are good, it can get a head start.



A bean is a type of seed. Since it has food stored inside, it will begin to grow with just some heat and a little bit of water. Eventually, the bean will need other things—soil, sun, air, and space—to grow, but it doesn't take much for it to get started!

# Bean Buddies

You'll need: a small Ziploc bag, a cotton ball, yarn, a dry bean, and some water

1. Soak the cotton ball in some water and wring it out. You want just enough water to keep the bean moist without making a puddle in the bag.
2. Add the moist cotton ball and bean of your choice to the plastic bag.
3. Close the plastic bag.
4. String the yarn through the hole at the top of the bag and tie a knot at the end.
5. Wear your bean buddy necklace under your shirt – it likes the heat! Don't forget to take it off before bed.



## Bean Buddies – Future Instructions

Once your bean buddy has sprouted a nice, healthy root, it's ready to plant! If your bean hasn't sprouted in a few days, try one of the other beans in your bag.

To plant, you'll need: soil, water, and a small pot

1. Add the soil to your pot.
2. Poke a hole in the soil with your finger and place your sprouted bean in the hole.
3. Cover the bean with soil.
4. Water.
5. Don't forget to put the pot in a warm, sunny spot!



# Fun Facts about Beans

- There are over 400 types of edible beans in the world!
- The largest seed pod in the world can grow up to 5 feet long.
- Beans come in many different colors like white, yellow, purple, green, red, and spotted.
- The top 5 beans to eat in the United States are pinto beans, navy beans, black beans, red kidney beans, and great northern beans.



Entadas gigas or “monkey-ladder,”  
The largest seed pod in the world

## More Resources:

- Make Black Bean Brownies:  
<https://chocolatecoveredkatie.com/2012/09/06/no-flour-black-bean-brownies/>
- Watch a Bean Plant Grow over 25 Days:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w77zPAtVTuI>
- What’s Inside a Bean?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFmBKpQxf-U>

# Bean Observations

Keep track of your bean's growth on this paper.  
Draw a picture of your bean every 2 days.



Day 1



Day 3



Day 5



Day 7