



PLANTING SEEDS AND PAPER FLOWERS

Learn about gardening and growing plants.

This week's activities: Planting Seeds - Paper Flowers

It's a good time to get close to nature in your backyard or balcony. Let's learn how to plant seeds, grow a flower and make a flower out of paper.

Planting Seeds

Suggested Materials:

- Small containers about 2-3 inches deep (egg cartons, yogurt cups, etc.)
- Seeds (sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, radishes, lettuces, and dill all grow quickly). Seeds can be purchased from grocery stores or hardware stores.
- Lightweight potting mix (available where you buy seeds)
- Spray bottle
- Craft sticks
- Plastic wrap



Directions:

Make sure your containers are clean and dry. Get an adult to poke a hole in the bottom for drainage.

Moisten the potting mix (it should be damp but not soaked). Avoid using outdoor garden soil to start your seeds. The potting mix is sterilized (so there's less chance of germs hurting the baby plants) and it provides good drainage.

Fill up your containers, leaving about half an inch or so at the top. Gently tap the container to settle the mix; don't compress it.

Read the seed packet to determine how deep to plant them. For a small pot, you can plant five seeds: one at the top, bottom, left, right and middle.

Mist the top with a spray bottle (this will keep the seeds moist without drowning them). Write the name of the seed on the craft stick, place it in the soil, then lightly cover the top of the pot with plastic wrap. This will help keep them from drying out and keep them warm.

Place them in a warm, sunny spot, then let the magic happen! Keep an eye on them and check and mist the soil regularly so it doesn't dry out.

Remove the plastic once the seedlings start to show and rotate the pot every couple days, so they don't bend toward the light. Place them in a tray and water them from the bottom. This will help the plant grow stronger roots.

When the seedlings have two or three leaves and have grown a few inches tall, transplant them to bigger containers.

If all danger of frost has passed (usually around Victoria Day) you can transplant your new plants outside into your garden.

Continue to water and admire your new plant.

Paper Flowers

Create a paper flower.

Suggested Materials (for one flower):

- One, 8x11 piece of plain or coloured paper (We used plain and coloured it.)
- 1 pipe cleaner for each flower (or use a twig or stick)

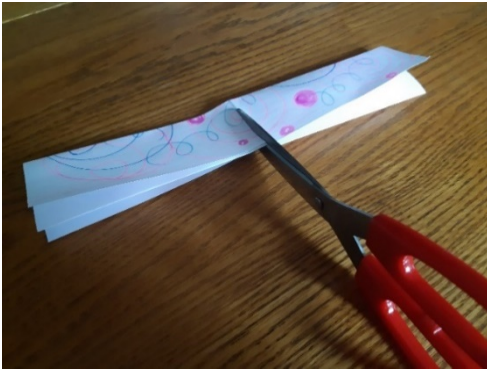
Directions:



1. Take a plain piece of paper and decorate it anyway you like, preferably on both sides of the paper. Colour on it, scribble, zigzags, dots, squiggles. Use your imagination and create any decoration you want



2. Lay the paper width wise. Starting at the top. Fold the paper in half. Then fold each half in half again, like an accordion. You should have a total of four folds.



3. Cut the folded paper in half (across the folds) with scissors.



4. On each piece cut a V on one end about halfway up the paper.



5. Open the folded papers. Lay them flat with the V side on top. Now one sheet of paper at a time, put a small line of school glue on the straight edge of paper. Gather and



6. Now repeat for the second piece of paper, wrapping it around the one you just made. It helps to make the flower stem stable if you wrap it around the

7. Great! You have made one flower. Put it in a vase or make a bunch more for a bouquet.



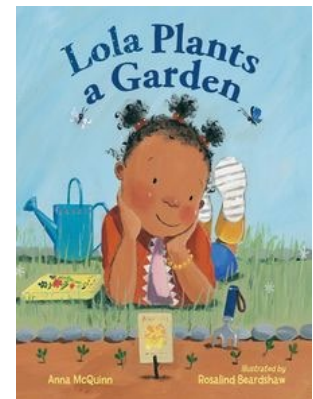
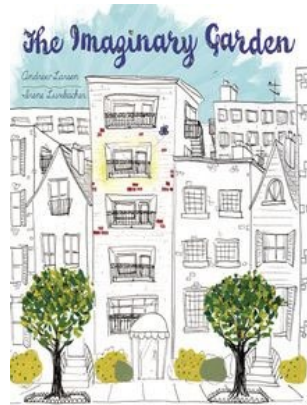
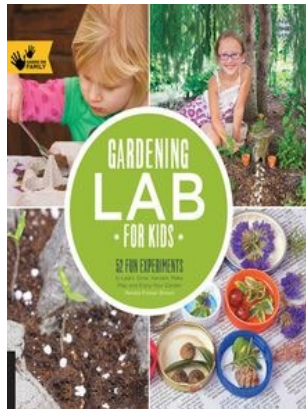
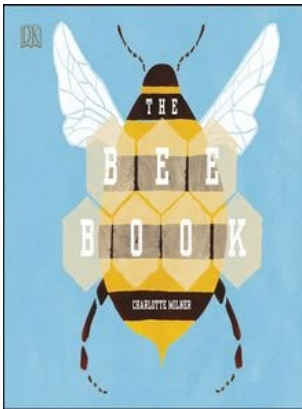
Links to eResources:

[Learn about Gardening](#) | [Paper Crafts](#) | [Flowers](#)

Watch Curiosity Quest Goes Green on [Kanopy Kids](#) to learn about earth-friendly gardening and other environmental issues.

You can get a library card [here](#), if you don't already have one.

If you would like to share one or all your creations, please take a picture and post it to social media using the hashtag, #HPLmakesomething.



#HPLmakesomething

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