

Activity 1: Growth Log

After your seedlings emerge, keep track of how tall they are getting! How long does it take for them to grow taller than this ruler!? How tall are your seedlings on...

DAY 7	DAY 10	DAY 11
DAY 12	DAY 13	DAY 14

FUN FACT!

The largest watermelon ever grown was in Tennessee and weighed 350 lbs!



Activity 2: Seed Lesson

Many types of seeds can stay dormant for years! In order to bring these seeds to life, they need 3 things:



WATER

seeds need water to soften their protective shell and tell them to start growing



AIR

while plants use carbon dioxide (CO₂) to grow, they actually need oxygen for energy in order to germinate



SUNLIGHT

once your seedlings have sprouted, they use sunlight as fuel to keep growing



Freezing temperatures keep the seeds dormant so they can be stored for years!

FUN FACT!

The world's largest collection of seed varieties is stored at the Global Seed Vault on the Norwegian island of Svalbard.



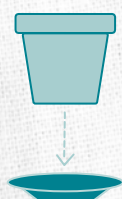
START HERE!

Planting (Day 1)

EXPAND THE SOIL: Place the soil puck in a separate bowl and add 1/3 cup of water. Wait 30 seconds as the soil expands (pretty cool, huh?!), then add it to your garden pot. **Save a small amount of soil and set aside.**

PLANT SEEDS: Sprinkle 3-4 seeds onto your soil, and cover them with 1/4" of soil that you'd set aside earlier.

ADD WATER: Add 1-2 tablespoons of additional water to settle the soil.



Take care! Your garden pot has a drainage hole in the bottom, so place it on a small dish to catch any extra water.



Germination & Growth (Days 2-10)

KEEP SOIL MOIST: Your seeds will need about 1 week to start growing. Keep the soil moist during the first week by adding 2-3 tablespoons of water whenever you see the soil's top layer dry out.



TIP: Cover your pot with a note card or wet paper towel to increase the humidity and help your seeds germinate faster!

PROVIDE SUNLIGHT: Check for growth daily. When seedlings poke out from the soil, uncover your pot and place it in a windowsill. Your plants should get 6-8 hours of direct sunlight per day.

KEEP WATERING: Continue to check on your plant as it grows! When you see the top layer of soil begin to dry out, add 2-3 tablespoons of water.

Moving Day

When your plants sprout their second set of leaves you are well on your way to growing your watermelon – congrats! But now your seedlings are ready to be moved into the ground or a larger pot to continue growing – this is called transplanting. Your starter pot can come too – it's plantable!

For a full transplanting guide, just scan the code below with a phone camera or text SCIENCEKIT to 29071.



backtotheroots.com/keepgrowing

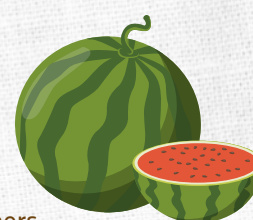
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Activity 3: Find a Watermelon Farmer

The very first watermelons originated in West Africa and were brought to America over 350 years ago.

There are over 1000 varieties of watermelon, and they are now grown in many countries around the world including China, Brazil, and here in the United States!



Some watermelon varieties grow to be only a few pounds, while others can reach over 45 lbs! Head to your local farmers market to see what kinds of watermelon grow in your community. Scan this code with your phone camera to find a farmers market near you.



Activity 4: Learn as You Grow

Download the FREE STEM curriculum at backtotheroots.com/curriculum



We're here for you!

Have any questions as you're growing? Get in touch with our team – we'd love to help! backtotheroots.com/contact