

## Growing Beans on Cotton Wool



It's very exciting to watch how FAST the plants grow!

All you need for this easy activity is a glass jar/bottle or plastic cup, some cotton wool balls/ pads and a bean!

First of all place the cotton wool balls into a glass jar. Then simply stick one bean on either side of the jar so that we could watch 2 growing at once.

Next, water it until the cotton wool was damp but not too wet, and placed the jar at the window.

Within 2-3 days the bean will start to sprout a small root, and 2-3 days later it will grow these little tendrils.

Another 4-5 days and the bean will develop a large network of shoots coming off the main root, and a sturdy stem grew straight upwards and above the top of the cotton wool.

And finally, 4-5 days later the beans will grow very steadily, tall and spindly with large leaves seeking out more sunlight.

Carefully remove them from the jar and examined the complex network of roots that, by this time, will have entangled themselves around the cotton wool balls at the bottom. Replant the beans into soil in pots in the garden. Water them and now watch their rapid growth outside with much excitement!

### **Extension Activities:**

Older children could measure the beans each day and record their growth progress in a "bean diary." They can draw a picture of what the plant looks like every 3-4 days, add a measurement and label the diagram with the parts of the plant as they develop. Alternatively, they could record using a digital camera and printing and sticking in their own photos.