



GROWING A SEED

Look!

What do you see in this picture?

What do you think it needs to grow?

Can you find the different colored flowers? Look closely!

Learn!

Do you like plants and trees?

Have you ever tried to grow a plant? Plants grow from seeds. They need water and sunshine to grow.

Artist, Sam Van Aken grows special fruit trees. This one is called *The Tree of 40 Fruit #87* and is planted in the Thomas Buechner Park on Denison Parkway across from The Rockwell Museum. Even though it's not inside the Museum, it is still part of the collection of the Museum's artwork. The artist grows trees from root, then adds branches of different fruit trees through a process called grafting. The different branches have different colored flowers on them which make different fruits! All from one tree – can you believe it? It's art plus science!

This picture shows the artist's idea of what the tree will look like in a few years. The tree doesn't look exactly like this picture now because it needs more time to grow. Sam Van Aken has made many other trees like this and planted them around the United States. His work is important because he uses varieties of fruit that are not regularly grown anymore. His trees are an artful way to make spaces beautiful and help protect fruits for future generations.

Plants are important to people. They give us food, clean our air and make us happy. It can be fun to take a walk and count how many plants and trees you find. Stop by and see *The Tree of 40 Fruit #87* sometime!



Samuel J. Van Aken, *Tree of 40 Fruit #87*, 2014 (planted 2018), Grafted stone fruit tree stock, mature size 20 x 20 ft. Collection of The Rockwell Museum. 2018.14.

Do!

Let's plant some seeds and watch them grow!

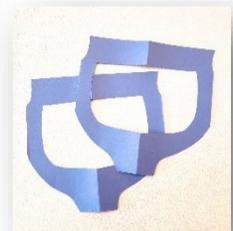
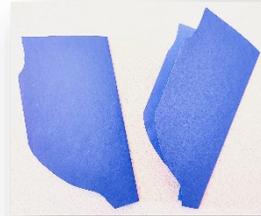
Supplies:

- Dried beans or peas (or any seeds you might have – good ones are radishes, marigolds, lettuce)
- Cotton balls or paper towels
- Ziptop baggie
- Construction paper larger than your baggie – 2 sheets
- Tape



Instructions:

- Cut out a flowerpot shape from your construction paper. Use the template on the last page or make your own, just make sure your baggie fits behind it. Fold your paper in half and trace or draw your pot. Cut out your shape.
- Cut out the centers of each pot, leaving a border big enough to cover the sides of your baggie. Your baggie will go between the papers, letting you watch how the seeds make roots and leaves while the sunshine comes in the other side.
- Wet your cotton balls or paper towel. You want them very damp, but not dripping. Too much water will create mold.



Put your cotton balls or paper towels into the baggie. Cotton balls should be compact, towel should be flat. Put the towel or cotton into the baggie, keeping it as flat as possible.



- With the baggie laying on the table, slide your seeds into the bag on top of the wet towel or cotton balls. Place them closer to the center of the bag so you can see them when they're inside the paper pot.
- Squish most of the air out of the bag before closing it.
- Tape the bag to the back of one of the paper pots. Tape the other paper pot to the first paper pot on the other side of the baggie to hide it. Now you can see your seeds inside!
- Hang your pot with tape in a sunny window.

Check it every day. You should see roots growing very soon!



***Growing tips:**

- Don't let your cotton balls or paper towels dry out. You can gently add more water by laying your project on a table with the seeds facing up. Carefully untape the top and open the bag. Sprinkle or spray water in as needed and close the bag again.
- If you have too much water, you may get some mold. If that happens, toss the bag in the trash and start again.
- When your plant begins to grow, take it out of the baggie and put it into soil. You can plant it in any container like a can or plastic cup. It can go outside when there's no longer danger of frost at night.

This is a kidney bean starting to grow!



Flower Pot Template – Cut 2

