



COLLECTING SEEDS FROM FLOWERS

(One of Mrs. Griffis's favorite things to do this summer)

Materials:

Mature Seeds from flowers

A pair of scissors

Envelopes or paper bags

Pen to mark with

Container (for collecting seeds that may fall from plant)

Box to put dried seeds in

I have really enjoyed collecting seeds this summer. It's so much fun finding out what kind of seed each plant has- there are so many shapes, colors, and sizes! My favorite seeds are poppy seeds because they come in a pod and when they are dried, their pod opens and their seeds can be shaken out. As much fun as I have had, I wanted to share this idea with you in case you'd like to do the same thing. In the spring, I plan on sharing my seeds with everyone in the class, and we will plant the seeds in hope of beautiful flowers coming up. If they grow when I plant them, I'll be very pleased. If they don't, I had fun harvesting them. If you'd like to collect some seeds yourself, here are the steps that will help you succeed at being a "Seed Harvester."

Step 1 Getting started:

1.

First, look for flowers you really love and think are beautiful. These are going to be the ones you want to reproduce. Keep an eye on them. Once a flower dies, it is then that the seeds will start to mature. Some flowers may produce seed heads or seed pods. Let them dry out as much as possible while still on the plant, if weather permits.

2. If they are from a neighbor's yard, then be sure to ask the neighbor if they wouldn't mind you taking the seeds. Be sure you are careful not to harm the actual plant when collecting the seeds.
3. Once they are mature, (before the pods break open, are eaten by birds, or risk of frost and winter weather starts) collect the dried seed pods from the plants on a dry sunny day.
4. Carefully cut or break off the seed heads from the plants with a container in the other hand to catch any seeds or seed pods that may fall.
5. If you are collecting seeds from many different plants at once; be sure to collect them in separate

envelopes or containers with a quick label for each to remind yourself what seed is from what plant! Be sure to label them right away or you will forget which seed is from which plant. If you don't know the name of them, which I have to admit I don't know many of the names of the seeds I have collected, then give a description such as "orange with dark red center; looks like a daisy; found by the village church," or any other description you can come up with.

Step 3 Drying seeds:

6. After collecting the seeds place them in a ventilated box or container to dry out completely. If they are inside a seed pod, carefully break open the seed pod to reveal the seeds. Sometimes it may be helpful to use a rolling pin to roll over and crack the pod.
7. Spread the seeds out so they are in a thin layer to dry.
8. Keep the box of seeds in a warm dry spot. Make sure you protect the seeds from wind, wet weather, and rodents.
9. Some seeds dry out faster than others. Make sure that any seeds you are ready to store are completely dry. This prevents rotting and minimizes the possibility of mold.

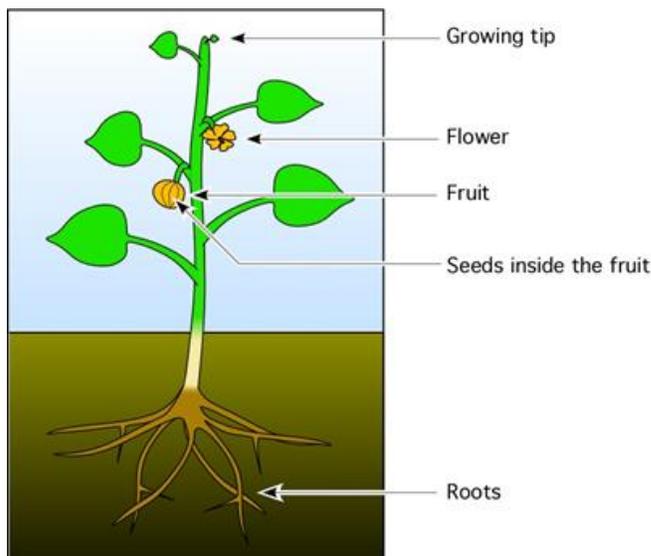
A Seed's Success:

The seed's success depends on how they were gathered, dried, and stored. It's also best to plant seeds the following year rather than waiting any longer.

Sharing Your Seeds:

Any seeds you'd like to share with the class, bring them to school within the first 2 weeks of school. I'm looking forward to sharing mine with you! We will have an in-depth study of the reproduction of plants in the spring when we will plant our seeds :)

*Have fun harvesting!
I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!
Mrs. Griffis*



We will learn more about seeds and plants during our Science Plant Unit in the spring!!