

Classroom Activities

10 Big Questions: How can we feed the world sustainably?*

How watering influences growth:

You will need:

- Four Styrofoam or paper cups
- Pencil
- Radish seeds
- Measuring spoons
- Soil

Poke four holes in the bottom of the cups with the pencil and fill them with the soil to about 2cm from the top. Wet the soil slowly a little bit in each cup at a time until water comes out of the bottom of the cups. Place five radish seeds onto the soil in each of the cups and cover them with another centimetre of soil. Place them on a sunny windowsill to germinate and grow. The cups will need to be in a tray but separated enough so that water from one can't be absorbed by another. Once you see the seeds have sprouted begin to water the plants every two to three days using the following treatments; one tablespoon of water, one teaspoon of water, ½ teaspoon of water, and no more water. If you measure the leaves once a week you will see that the amount the seedlings can grow is dependent upon the amount of water that they receive.

This classroom activity was suggested by John Harris, PhD student Australian Centre Plant Functional Genomics, the University of Adelaide.

* To find out more about the 10 Big Questions, go to:

<http://www.sciences.adelaide.edu.au/learning-teaching/10bq/>

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