

# BALLOON PLANTS



## Materials

- Large clear balloons  
*(available at party decoration stores)*
- Markers
- Ribbons
- Funnels
- Measuring cups
- Towels or wipes
- Radish seeds
- ½ cup potting soil *(per student)*
- ¼ cup water *(per student)*

## DIRECTIONS

**The objective of balloon plants is to understand that living plants need water, soil, sunlight, and carbon dioxide to grow. Students will work in teams to explore these relationships.**

1. Insert a funnel into the neck of the balloon. Use it to pour soil into the balloon.
2. Now pour the water into the balloon. Be sure the soil is wet, but not soggy.
3. Drop the seeds through the funnel into the balloon.
4. If the balloon is dirty, clean it with the towel or wipes.
5. Inflate and tie the balloon, adding a ribbon around the knot to hang the balloon.
6. Hang the balloon from a hook or other place near a window *(see example)*. The balloon plant will begin growing soon.
7. Have students check their balloons daily and chart their plant's growth for ten days.

*Example:*



## Questions:

1. Could these plants grow in the balloons forever? Explain.
2. Will they run out of anything?
3. Where do plants get food?
4. Where do plants get carbon dioxide?
5. Do plants need water to live?

## Options:

1. Don't add water. Do the seeds germinate?
2. Use helium to blow up the balloons. Can plants use helium to grow?
3. Put the balloons in a dark place. Do the plants grow?
4. Don't add soil. Do the seeds germinate? Do the plants grow?