

How to Plant and Grow Young Radish Plants (4 Weeks Before Lesson 3)

In Lesson 3 of the *Evolving Minds* science unit, your class will look closely at young radish plants and observe and plot variability in their traits. These instructions assume a classroom activity, but you may choose to plant the radishes yourself.

Alternative: If your plants fail to grow, you may purchase radish plants with leaves from a local grocery store as a fall back option. *You will need 2 radish plants per student.* If you purchase radish plants, buy them no earlier than the day before Lesson 2. Bought radishes can be preserved overnight by wrapping them in a damp dish towel. Do not refrigerate them.

NOTE: It may help to call your local market to find out whether they have radishes with leaves. Some stores only carry radishes that have already had the leaves removed.

NOTE: Each class will grow their own radishes. In the box provided to the school, there are sufficient materials for each class to grow their own radishes - there is no need to share. In the box, there will be: pots, radish seeds, potting soil, lamps, and light bulbs.

NOTE: You are expected to provide some materials. For the planting of the radishes, you will need to provide: tap water and a shallow container capable of holding 8 pots of soil. Additionally, you will need to provide rulers and hand lenses for each group of students for lesson 3.

Materials (per group of 3 students): 1 pot
At least 6 radish seeds
Approximately 1 cup potting soil, dampened

Materials (per class): 1 shallow container for under the pots
1 desk lamp with grow bulb



Ahead of time: Dampen the potting soil. It should be moist but not soaking wet. Count out 6 seeds and measure 1 cup of soil for each student group. Label the pots with student names.

Planting instructions

1. Distribute pot, seeds, and soil to the groups.
2. Have students place the soil in the pots and press it down gently.
3. Have students distribute the seeds evenly across the surface of the soil.
4. Finally, have students sprinkle a **small** amount of soil to cover the seeds about half an inch.



After planting: Place the pots in the shallow container to catch any water. Place the pots in a spot in the classroom that has the most natural light. Position the desk lamp with grow bulb as best you can to shine on the pots. Leave the desk lamp turned on 24/7. The seedlings will need to be watered every other day (or every day if the classroom is hot and dry).



NOTE: For the weekend, fill the container under the pots with a ½" of water to tide the plants over. The water will create humidity around the plants, and some water will wick up into the soil.

OPTIONAL: Students may find it interesting to observe how the plants change over each of the 4 weeks.