

# activity 2

## Seed sorting



Age 5-7



Time

Seed sorting activity  
- 30 minutes

### Materials

Margarine tubs or Petri dishes.

A selection of seeds.

For the extension activity:

Binocular microscope, hand lenses and/or  
Pupil worksheet 1.

Through these activities children can learn:

- that seeds do not all look the same
- that different species of plant have seed of different shapes and sizes
- to develop ways to describe different species of seed

Skills developed:

- observation
- comparison
- sorting
- classifying
- observational drawing

The activity:

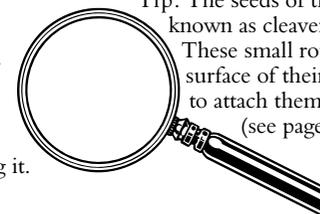
- Introduce a selection of seeds in separate small tubs.
- Let the children examine all the seeds and make general observations and comparisons.
- Split the children into smaller groups and allow them to handle the seeds again. This time ask each group to generate a list of sorting criteria (Q1). Ideas for possible criteria might include: colour, texture, shape and size.
- Ask them to sort and group their seeds according to their own group's criteria.

Key questions:

**Q1. What words would you use to describe this seed -  
smooth, rough, spiky?**

Extension activity:

- Select one type of seed with an interesting seed coat. Ask the children to use a binocular microscope or hand magnifier to examine one of these seeds carefully and make an observational drawing.
- Alternatively, use Pupil worksheet 1 as a template to produce card magnifying glass cut outs which the children can use to help them 'frame' and focus in on a seed while they are drawing it.



Tip: The seeds of the weed *Galium* (commonly known as cleaver) make good subjects for study. These small round seeds have hooks on the surface of their seed coats which allow them to attach themselves to material and fur (see pages 19 and 20).

# Activity 2: Pupil worksheet 1

Template for a card magnifying glass

