

Turf Buddies

Description:

This lesson is an interactive way to bring germination and the stages of plant development to life. Students of all ages love to observe the growth of their 'buddy'.



Directions:

- 1) Each student is given a nylon. This will become their turf buddy.
- 2) Have each students place 1-2 teaspoons of grass seed in the toe of their nylon. This is where the grass will sprout from and grow. As the grass seed sprouts and grows it will look like hair. **Note:** When you are making the turf buddy, think upside down. The toe of the nylon will become the top of the turf buddy's head.
- 3) Students should pour approximately 1.5 cups of potting soil into the nylon, covering the grass seed in the toe area. Pack the soil down to make a firm ball.
- 4) Tie a knot in the nylon right under the ball of soil.
- 5) Students can use markers to draw a face on the turf buddy.
- 6) Place the turf buddy, head side up, in a cup of water. The nylon will wick the water up and saturate the head of the turf buddy. In 10-15 days the grass seed will germinate through the nylon and form "hair."
- 7) Add water to the turf buddy cup as needed. Cut the grass hair and style as desired.



Additional Ideas:

Have students create a birth certificate for their turf buddy. Bookmark sized tags (see page 2 for duplicating) have a place for students to mark the date the seeds were planted, record the rate of growth and the date of their turf buddy's first haircut. This is a fun way to record the rate of germination and plant growth.



Grass Seed in Oregon: Did You Know?

Oregon is the world's number one producer of cool-season forage and turf grass seed. Much of the state's grass seed is grown in the Willamette Valley where the mild and moist winters and dry summers provide ideal growing conditions.

Turf grass seed is planted for home lawns, athletic fields, and golf courses. Forage grass seed is planted for pastures, road sides and erosion prevention. Grass seed is one of the state's top commodities. The industry employs approximately 10,000 people annually and generates about \$1 billion of annual economic activity in the state. Learn more about grass seed on our website under [Oregon Grown Commodities!](#)