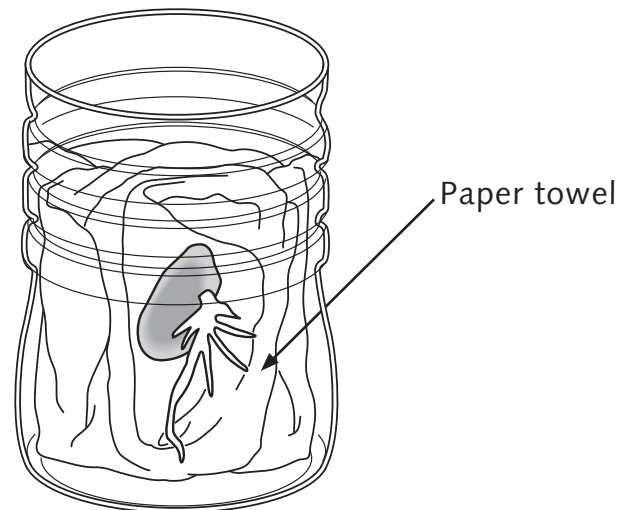
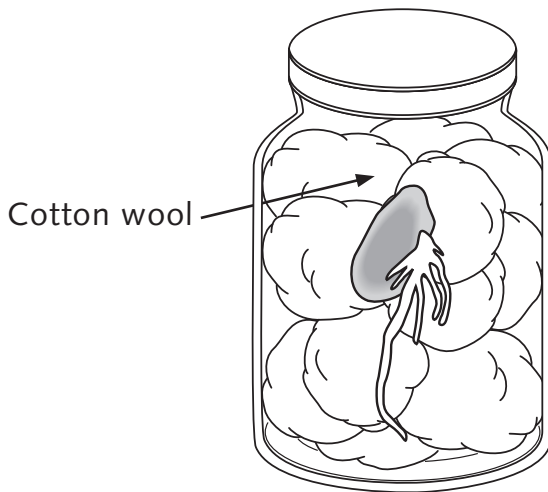


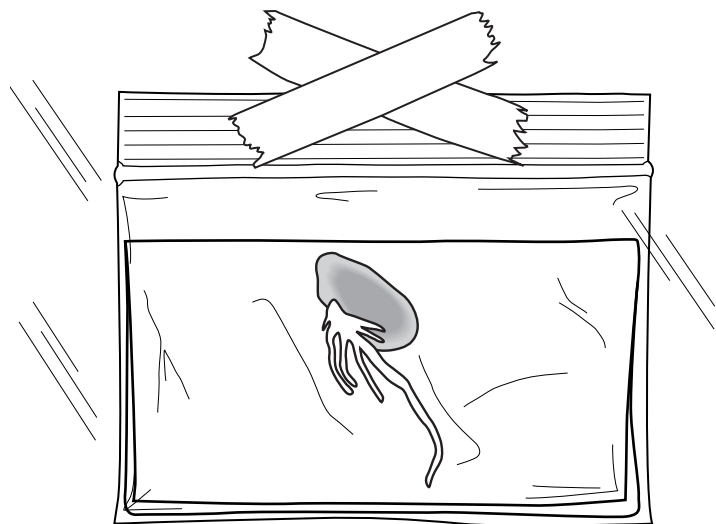
TEACHER RESOURCE: GERMINATING SEEDS

To germinate seeds so that children can observe the process, they need to be in a clear container with something that will hold water and keep them damp. You can buy special 'window greenhouses' or 'root windows' which allow you to grow plants in a water holding gel, or you can make your own.

One alternative is to use the cut off base of a clear plastic bottle lined with damp paper towel, or filled with damp cotton wool or the gel beads that you can buy to put in vases of flowers. Avoid adding too much water or the seeds may rot. Cover to prevent drying out. Glass jars can also be used and they have the advantage of coming with lids, but plastic alternatives may be more suitable when working with young children (see Be Safe chapter 15 for advice about using glass). If you use a large bottle or jar several seeds can be planted at once, or in sequence around the circumference.



You can also plant seeds in plastic bags which can be hung on a line in the classroom or taped to a window. Use bags which can be easily sealed. If planting a sequence of seeds in the same bag you will need to open and reseal. Moisten the paper towel, fold it and place it flat in the bag. Put the seed between the towel and the bag, pressing gently so that the towel holds the seed in place.



For single plantings the above will work. For planting seeds at intervals to show the stages of germination use the method shown here, placing the first seed in the left hand pocket and adding further seeds at intervals until all the pockets are full. If the container or bag is sealed you should not need to water it during the germination process.

<http://www.saps.org.uk/primary/teaching-resources/639-growing-seeds-in-a-plastic-bag>

Remember to label the jars or bags with the names of the children and the type of seed.