

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Department Of Science Education
333 Clinton Street
Buffalo NY 14204

BPS
TEAM
Science

FIRSTHAND LEARNING, INC
Science Materials Center
2495 Main St., Suite 550
Buffalo, NY 14214

Dear Teacher,

Enclosed you will find two activities for your students to take home and complete with their parents or guardian. These activities are simple to do using readily available materials.

For each activity, you will find a letter to the parents, directions, needed handouts, and an evaluation to be returned to you. You may want to make your own prototype to show your students.

We hope you feel they are appropriate and enjoyable for your students. Please send any comments to the Science Materials Center when you return your kit.

Thank you.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are beginning our science kit an **Ecosystems**. Your child will be bringing home two activities related to this kit for you to do together. Please follow the procedure below to observe and record the germination of two seeds. Then have your child return the family journal to school.

Thank you

Watch It Grow

Materials:

- 2 dried beans, plastic baggie, and a paper towel
1. Fold the paper towel in half and dampen it
 2. Slide the damp towel into the baggie keeping it flat
 3. Put the two dried beans on top of the paper towel, (center them)
 4. Close the baggie to keep the moisture in
 5. Hang with tape or a tack, your bag on a wall or poster board near a window
 6. Make your observations for two weeks. Record an illustration and write your observations for day one, five, ten and fourteen on your **Watch It Grow Family Journal Page**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This is the second activity related to our science unit on Ecosystems. Below is a recipe for play-dough for you and your child to make. When you are finished, create an arthropod, an animal with jointed legs and a segmented body, with a hard outer covering, then label its body parts. Please have your child bring your creation to school to share with the class.

Thank You.

Amazing Arthropods

Materials:

- Recipe, Shoebox, food coloring or paint

Recipe: Mix until smooth

- **1 cup of flour; ½ cup of salt; 1 Tblsp oil; 1 cup of water; 2 tsp cream of tartar**
 - Cook for 3 minutes constantly until dough forms a ball. Let cool.
- 1. While dough is cooling, sketch and color your arthropod on paper. This will be your blueprint to help make your Amazing Arthropod.

NOTE: If you choose to use food coloring, now is the time to mix in the colors.

2. Form the play-dough into your arthropod in the shoebox
3. Paint your arthropod if needed
4. Label your arthropod body parts and return it to your teacher

Name: _____ Date: _____

Watch IT Grow Family Journals Page

Make observations, illustrate and write a description of your observations

Day	Illustrations	Observations
Day 1		
Day 5		
Day 10		
Day 14		