

Virtual Seed Survivor

Lesson - Giganteus Sunflowers

Parent Guide



Explore what it takes for seeds to survive, thrive and provide us with healthy nutritious food.

Background

Seed Survivor educates elementary students, with a focus on grades 3-4, about the importance of agriculture and where food comes from. All materials in Seed Survivor are created in collaboration with teachers and agriculture experts to ensure they are unbiased, curriculum-based and factual. Every presentation explores how to grow healthy plants, the components and importance of soil and how much of the earth can grow food. Students have a chance to play games and plant seeds to grow at home!

In this lesson students will:

- Identify what plants need to grow
- Describe the components of loam soil
- Understand how precious and finite soil is on our planet
- Describe the 3 macro-nutrients for plants, where they come from and how they help the plant grow and stay healthy
- Plant and care for giganteus sunflowers

Suggested time needed:

80 minutes+

10 minutes – Seed Survivor pre-activity

20 minutes – Seed Survivor presentation, planting activity and video questions (plus set-up time and planting time)

10 minutes – Post-presentation crossword puzzle

30 minutes – Seed Survivor games and website exploration (individual)

10 minutes – Seed Survivor post-activity

Materials to be provided by you, the parent:

- One tablet, laptop or desktop computer with internet connection to complete online learning games and activities.
- A Seed Survivor cup or similar small container (about 750mL or 12oz).
- Nutrient rich soil. Potting soil is a great option.
- Giganteus sunflower seeds (2)
 - See note below regarding seeds if homeschooling.*
- A tablespoon

*** If you are completing this as a homeschooling activity and were not provided seeds, any variety of sunflower will do. You are welcome to email Community.Investment@nutrien.com and we will send you giganteus sunflower seeds for this activity.**



Student Activity preparation:

1. Provide your student with the planting materials:
 - A cup or a similar container (about 750 mL or 12oz).
 - Nutrient rich soil. Potting soil is a great option.
 - Two giganteus sunflower seeds
 - A tablespoon
2. Provide your student with a device connected to the internet. Have them open the **Interactive Seed Survivor for Students - Giganteus Sunflower** lesson sheet. If using printed versions of the activities, have your student complete the pre-activity first and then supply the Student Lesson.
 - The interactive lesson sheet will provide them with a step-by-step guide and all links to download the online materials needed to complete the Seed Survivor Sunflower Giganteus lesson.
 - **Note:** this activity sheet and the video can also be accessed from the **Sunflower Giganteus** option on Virtual Seed Survivor Presentation page under the "Just for Teachers" tab on the Seed Survivor website www.SeedSurvivor.com. There are print options of all activities if preferred.

For your information at 4:10 in the Virtual Presentation video directions are given for planting the sunflower seeds. Here are the step-by-step instructions as presented in the video if needed:

- i. Fill your cup almost to the top with nutrient rich soil
- ii. Make a peace sign (or a number two) and place your fingers into the soil up to your first knuckle – about 1/2" - 1" deep. Make sure you don't go too deep... leave lots of room for the roots to grow!
- iii. Add one seed to each hole
- iv. Cover the seeds with soil
- v. Place your cup in a sunny window
- vi. Add approximately one TABLESPOON of water each day or enough to keep the soil moist (should feel like a damp sponge)
- vii. When the sunflower is about 8cm (3 inches) or the size of the student's hand, it is ready to be transplanted to a garden or a larger pot indoors with access to plenty of sunlight

* Find more tips, growing advice or submit your sunflower pictures on www.SeedSurvivor.com

Additional Resources:

For Students:

Go to <http://seedsurvivor.com/>. Students can explore these resources under the "Just for Kids" tab:

- Kids videos
- Nutrient world (learn more about NPK)
- Recipes
- Growing Advice
- Online coloring
- Ask the Agronomist

For Parents:

Go to <http://seedsurvivor.com/> and look under the "Just for Teachers" tab for:

- More e-learning activities
- Videos
- Posters
- Resources to learn more about agriculture

Feedback

We welcome your feedback! Each year Seed Survivor makes improvements based on the feedback received. Please complete a short questionnaire linked [here](#) or available on the virtual presentation page.

For questions, or any further feedback please email: Community.Investment@Nutrien.com

Have fun watching your sunflowers grow!