

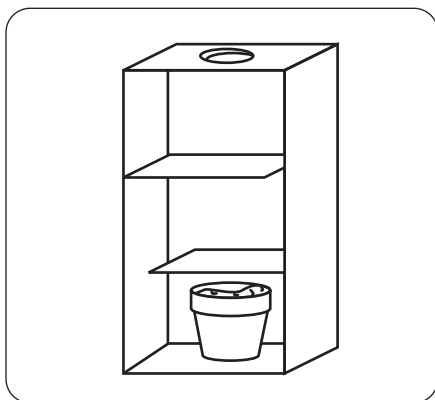


NATURE ACTIVITY:

Potato Maze

What You'll Need:

- ✓ Mom or Dad's help
- ✓ A potato that has begun to sprout
- ✓ A large shoebox
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Tape
- ✓ Flowerpot with soil
- ✓ Two pieces of cardboard, about the size of the ends of the box



Would you believe a plant can go through a maze?

Directions:

1. Take the sprouting potato and place it into a small flowerpot with soil.
2. Put the pot into one end of the shoebox, and cut a 2" hole in the opposite end of the box.
3. Tape pieces of cardboard to the sides and bottom of the box with a small gap between the end of the cardboard and the wall of the box.
4. Close the box and place it in a sunny window.
5. Water the soil once a day if the soil seems dry. Within just a few days, the potato sprout will find its way through the maze and out the hole!

Plants, like all living things, are made up of tiny units called cells. In plants, some cells in the leaves and stems are sensitive to light.

While humans and other animals eat food to get energy, plants get energy from the sun. A plant will die if it doesn't get enough light, so it always tries to grow towards a source of light. In the potato, even the tiny amount of light in the box is enough to guide the sprout to the outside.

You may notice that the potato sprout looks white until it reaches the hole in the box. This is because plants get their energy with a chemical called chlorophyll [pronounced KLOOR-oh-fill], and chlorophyll is green. Plant leaves are naturally white, yellow, or red when there is no chlorophyll. In Autumn, all the leaves change colors because the chlorophyll disappears, so you see the real color of the leaves.