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# Activity 1

## Hidden Seeds

### Investigation

*Examining seeds inside fruits.*

### Skills

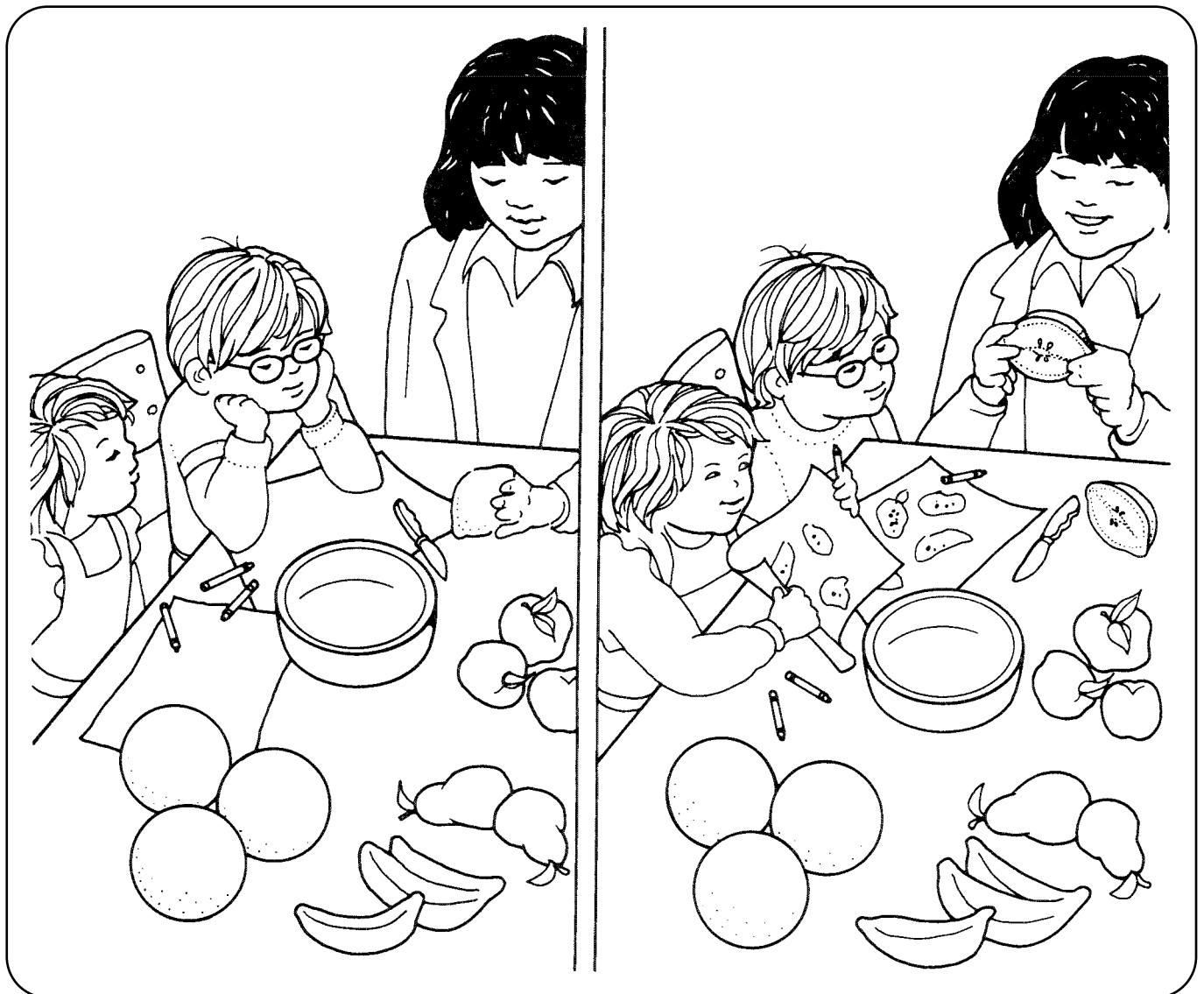
Predicting ✧ Describing number, shape, size, colour  
✧ Comparing patterns ✧ Identifying smells

### Materials

Fruits (apples, pears, apricots, plums, cherries, oranges, melons, figs and so on); knife; paper; crayons; bowl.

### Setting Up

Put the fruit out on a table, like kinds together. Keep the bowl and knife nearby. Have the paper and crayons ready for the children to use.



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## Starting Out

Display each kind of fruit one at a time and ask the children what they think the inside looks like. Will there be any seeds? How big will they be? What colour? What shape? Have the children draw what they think is inside each fruit.

## Guiding Children's Actions

1. After the children have drawn the inside of a fruit, cut one of the fruits open vertically and ask questions like these:
  - How does the inside of the fruit compare to your drawing?
  - What colour are the seeds? Are they all the same colour?
  - What shape are the seeds?
  - How big are they?
  - How many seeds are there?
  - How do the seeds feel – smooth, rough, slippery?
  - Where are the seeds located in the fruit?
  - Is it easy or hard to remove the seed(s) from the fruit?
  - Are all the seeds in one kind of fruit exactly alike? Can you find seeds that are different?
2. Draw attention to the design or pattern of the seeds inside the fruit. Then ask the children if they think the pattern will be different if you cut the fruit horizontally. (On the apple and pear, for example, the seed casings form a star when cut horizontally.) Cut some fruit horizontally and compare it to the vertical cross section. Put the cut fruit in the bowl.
3. When all the fruits have been examined, ask:
  - Which fruits have only one seed in them?
  - Which fruits have many seeds in them?
4. Have the children make a fruit salad with the fruit they have been exploring. Serve the salad for snack.

## Stretching their Thinking

Cut a small 'sniffing' hole in several small boxes. Place a different kind of fruit in each box. Have the children smell the fruit by sniffing through the hole. Challenge them to name the fruit using their sense of smell alone.

## Activity 2

# Seed Bags

### Investigation

*Identifying seeds in fruits.*

### Skills

Matching ✧ Comparing size ✧ Drawing conclusions ✧ Identifying  
✧ Creating and recording patterns

### Materials

Old catalogues or magazines; scissors; paste; plastic bags.

### Setting Up

Set up a science centre for identifying seeds. Place scissors, paste, magazines and plastic bags on the table.



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## Starting Out

Ask the children to bring to school seeds they find in fruits and vegetables at home. When the children bring in seeds, ask them to identify them. Where did they find the seeds? What fruit or vegetable carried the seeds?

## Guiding Children's Actions

1. Have the children look in magazines for pictures of the fruits or vegetables that match their seeds. Have them cut out the picture and paste it on the outside of a plastic bag. They can store their seeds inside.
2. Keep the bags in the science centre so that as children bring in additional seeds, they can check the centre to see if that kind of seed is already on the table. If not, have them look in the magazines to find a picture of the fruit or vegetable and make a new bag for those seeds.
3. As the children collect their seeds, talk about how the seeds compare with the fruits and vegetables they come from. Ask:
  - Do all large fruits and vegetables have large seeds inside them?
  - Can you think of a large fruit or vegetable that produces a small seed? (The watermelon is a good example.)
  - Do all small fruits and vegetables produce small seeds?
  - Can you think of a small fruit or vegetable that produces a large seed? (An avocado, for example.)
4. Conclude that the size of the seed does not determine the size of its fruit.
5. Turn the bags over so that the seeds are visible through the bag but the pictures are hidden. See if the children can identify the fruit or vegetable just by looking at its seed. They can turn the bag over to check.

## Stretching their Thinking

Have the children make seed necklaces. Thread a needle and have the children poke the needle through seeds of their choice. If the seeds have been kept in the plastic bags, they should be moist and soft enough for the needle to penetrate them. However, you could restrict the activity to only the softest and largest of the seeds.

Encourage the children to plan their necklace patterns before beginning. They can use the initial letters of the names of the fruits and vegetables and write down the order they plan to follow. W W P P O O W W P P O O could mean two watermelon seeds followed by two pumpkin seeds followed by two orange seeds and so on.