

Jack's beans

Setting the context

Laura got to thinking when her teacher was reading the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Jack was given five beans and yet only one grew to be strong enough for Jack to climb. Why did one grow taller and stronger than the others, and why didn't

the others grow so strong and tall?

The problem

How can we help Laura to find out if and why some plants grow taller and stronger than others?

Objectives

- To understand that plants need light and water to grow.
- To be able to recognise and name the leaf, flower, stem and root of a flowering plant.
- To learn that seeds grow into flowering plants.

You will need

Bean seeds; grow bag; water; string; canes; flower pots; cotton wool; digital camera; tally charts on photocopyable pages 37 and 38 for each of the beans to record the number of days it takes for each of the beans to start to shoot.

Preparation

Clear a space in front of a window and set up the grow bag, canes and string for the beans to climb as they grow. Find a dark place such as a cupboard. Set up a display for a picture diary of each bean's growth. Prepare an area outside to transplant the beans to. The best time for this activity is at the start of the summer term.

Discussion and research

- Collect the children's ideas on why they think one of Jack's beans grew stronger than the others. If they were magic beans, why did

