

**Materials**

1 plastic CD case, with at least one clear side

Radish seeds

Paper towelling, blotter paper, or absorbent fabric (we used a scrap of green craft felt in ours)

# Make a Mini Greenhouse from a Recycled CD Case

**Purpose:** To recycle an otherwise wasted material (a CD case) and to observe how seeds germinate and grow.

**What to do**

- 1 Soak radish seeds overnight. You'll need about four seeds for each mini greenhouse.
- 2 Cut absorbent paper or fabric to fit inside the CD case. Wet the paper or fabric thoroughly.
- 3 Place two soaked seeds on the wet paper or fabric on either side of the center hub inside the case and snap the case shut:



- 4 Every day, water your seeds by pouring a little water around the edges of the case or through the holes in the back (if your case is the kind that has holes.) Do NOT open the case to water because the seedlings might wash out or get damaged.

5 Be sure your seedlings get sun every day. Put your mini greenhouse on or near a windowsill. Living things—especially very young things like seedlings or baby animals—are delicate. Be careful that your seeds do not get too hot from too much direct sun; also be careful that they do not freeze by placing them near a window in the wintertime in a cold climate.

After about 10 days, you can gently open the edges of the case a little. If you do, your seedlings may continue to grow above the case, and the roots may grow below the case:



Seedlings grown this way sometimes do not transplant easily, but you can try lifting out the paper or fabric and gently covering it with soil. Keep the green parts of the seedlings above the soil line and keep the soil moist.

To see how seedlings grow over time, watch our time-lapse video at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyV5z5b19mk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyV5z5b19mk)

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The Center's 2009 book, *Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability*, showcases inspiring stories about public, independent, and charter schools across the United States. Environmental educator David W. Orr calls *Smart by Nature* "must reading for teachers, school administrators, parents, and the concerned public." Learn more at: