

MAKE A MINI GREENHOUSE FROM A RECYLED CD CASE

OVERVIEW

In this activity, recycle a CD case as a mini greenhouse and observe how seeds germinate and grow.





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Center for Ecoliteracy
David Brower Center
2150 Allston Way, Suite 270
Berkeley, CA 94704-1377

For more information about this activity, email info@ecoliteracy.org or visit
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MAKE A MINI GREENHOUSE FROM A RECYLED CD CASE

OVERVIEW

In this family activity, recycle a CD case as a mini greenhouse and observe how seeds germinate and grow.

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)

INSTRUCTIONS

- 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 four soaked seeds on the wet paper or fabric, two on either side of the center hub, and snap the case shut. It should look like this:



- 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 when watering because the seedlings might wash out.
- 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. This will help your seedlings continue to grow above the case, and the roots may grow below the case, like this:



Seedlings grown this way might transplant successfully to your garden. Gently remove the paper or fabric from the case without moving the seedlings. Cover it with moist 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:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyV5z5b19mk



ABOUT THE CENTER FOR ECOLITERACY

The Center for Ecoliteracy is an internationally recognized leader in systems change innovations in education for sustainable living. Since 1995, the Center has engaged with thousands of educators from across the United States and six continents. The Center offers publications, seminars, academic program audits, coaching for teaching and learning, in-depth curriculum development, keynote presentations, and technical assistance. Books authored or coauthored by the Center for Ecoliteracy include *Ecoliterate: How Educators Are Cultivating Emotional, Social, and Ecological Intelligence* (Jossey-Bass, 2012); *Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability* (Watershed Media, 2009); and *Ecological Literacy Educating Our Children for a Sustainable World* (Sierra Club Books, 2005).

CREDITS

Project Director Zenobia Barlow

Author and Photographer Karen Brown