



# theCLAYSTUDIOofMISSOULA

## *Sprouting Sculptures: Caring for Seeds!*

What does a plant need to grow?

### SEEDS

Plants grow from SEEDS.  
Everything contained in it's seed tells the plant what sort of plant it will become!

### Project Ingredients:

Clay  
Rye grass seeds (annual)  
Plastic baggie

For a seed to grow, it does need extra care that the Earth provides. There are four extra ingredients seeds need that come from outside.

### Extra Ingredients:

1. **SOIL**
2. **WATER**
3. **AIR**
4. **SUNSHINE**



## 1. SOIL

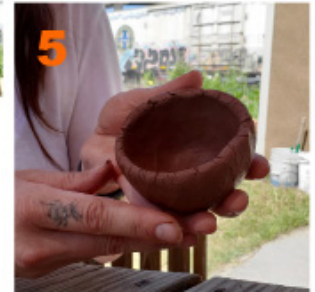
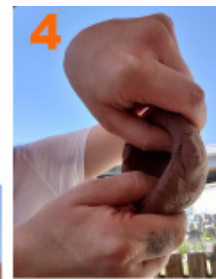
Clay is a special kind of SOIL. It sticks to itself when wet and you can make it into any shape you want by: squishing, squeezing, pinching, rolling, cutting, tearing, pressing and more ...what else?

What shape makes you think of a safe, cozy place for your seeds?

*Ideas: bowl, bed, hug, caretaker, flower, blanket, fort, maybe your favorite food for your seeds?! Or a favorite thing?  
Or something else fun from your imagination!*

Use your hands to create a clay home for your seeds.





## Making a Pinch Pot

## 2. WATER

Your clay you used to make a home for your seeds is already WET with water. How do you make sure your seeds stay watered?

1. Keep your sculpture safe in its plastic baggie so the water stays in your clay and feeds your seeds. You don't want it to dry out!
2. If your sculpture begins to look dry, give it a small spray of water or pour a small spoonful of water over it and seal your bag back up. When the clay dries, it starts to look lighter colored and grey-ish. That's the time to water!

## 3. AIR

What is the next thing on the list that plants need to grow? AIR

Is there air in your baggie? Make sure the plastic isn't too tight against your clay. Plants breathe air just like us! There are lots of gasses all mixed together that make up Earth's air. Animals like us use the oxygen in the air for our bodies, and plants use the carbon dioxide in the air for theirs!

Animals breath in oxygen and breath out carbon dioxide through our lungs.

Plants breathe in carbon dioxide and breath out oxygen through their leaves!

You can give your plants some love by breathing out some carbon dioxide onto them. They say "Thank you! We'll give you some oxygen in return!"

## 4. SUNSHINE

The last thing our plants need to grow is SUNSHINE.

We have to wait a few days for the rye grass to begin to grow. Be sure you keep your sculpture somewhere with SUNLIGHT! Sunshine warms the seeds and once they sprout, it helps the plants photosynthesize. This word - PHOTOSYNTHESIS- means to make nutrients to grow from sunlight! Plants use carbon dioxide from the AIR, nutrients and WATER that their roots draw up from the SOIL and LIGHT from the sun to grow!

What do you need to grow?

## Watch it Grow!

Be sure to check on your sprouting sculpture every day and see if you notice any changes. Soon, green sprouts will emerge!

You can keep your sprouting sculpture in its little bag as long as you want. Just be sure to give it a little water if it looks dry. When you're ready, you can find a spot outside to plant your rye seed. If it has soil, water, air, & sunshine, it will grow! When the rye grass dies, it turns into nutrients for the soil to feed other plants. The sculpture and its green growing rye grass just change form- they become something yummy for the earth!

With care, seeds can grow into a friendly green plant.  
With care, we can grow big and strong and friendly, too!

We'd love to see pictures of your projects, please feel free to tag The Clay Studio of Missoula on Instagram

Or email pictures to [info@theclaystudioofmissoula.org](mailto:info@theclaystudioofmissoula.org)

Project updated by Jazmine Penelope for The Clay Studio of Missoula, 2020



## **theCLAYSTUDIOofMISSOULA'S**

### **Clay Safety at Home**

It is important to follow these safety guidelines, especially when working with clay inside your living space. Clay contains silica, which in its dry form can be breathed into the lungs and cannot be expelled. Follow these simple guidelines to minimize the risk to you and your family.

- Work on projects in a dedicated area or on a dedicated surface such as a board or canvas. Completely clean off surfaces with water and sponge to prevent dry dusty surfaces from developing.
- Always clean up clay with sponge and water. Never sweep, as clay dust will linger in the air.
- Try to collect scraps from floor and work surface before they are dry and put them in a bag or in the trash.
- Never sand finished works unless outside and down wind.
- Wash hands and tools when you are finished.

To keep your plumbing safe, do not wash clay down the sink, toilet, or bathtub. A little dust is okay, but definitely no pieces, chunks or sludge.

Water that has a lot of clay in it should be left to settle. Once settled, drain out the water and the remaining sludge can be re-used, or thrown in the trash. Clay water is safe to dump outside in the dirt or in an outside trash receptacle.

Clay scraps can be collected in a bag and can be recycled, by adding water, or thrown in the trash.