



NATURE CAT GRASS HEAD

MAKE NATURE CAT WITH PLANT "FUR" ON TOP

Episode: "Travelin' Seeds" (11 min.)

When Daisy finds a beautiful flower in her garden that she didn't plant, it's up to Nature Cat and his pals to find out where the flower came from. Together, they learn that seeds can travel far distances and grow where they land.

Episode curriculum goal: Some plants make seeds that will travel to new growing places to continue the plants' cycle of life.

Clips on PBSKids.org: "The Flying Seed"; "The Plant Mystery"

*To view clips, visit PBSKids.org/video, click on Nature Cat and select Browse.

Goal of Activity:

Learn that seeds need soil, water, and sunlight to grow into plants.



The Basics:

Number of children: Any number. Younger children may need help from an adult.

Space: A table with clear workspace.

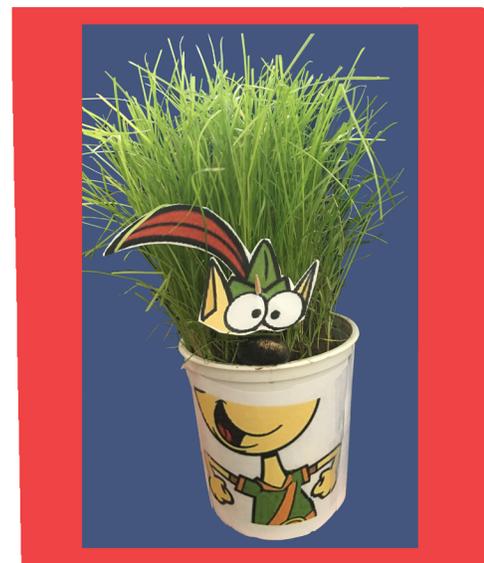
Time: Approx. 20-30 minutes.

What You'll Need:

-  Sheer stockings or pantyhose (one leg for each child)
-  Scissors
-  Large cup or mug
-  Grass seeds
-  Potting soil
-  5-6 oz. cup or empty yogurt container, rinsed clean (one for each child)
-  Small rubber bands
-  Printable Nature Cat face pieces (see attached)
-  Waterproof glue or strong tape
-  Toothpick

Preparation (before children arrive):

-  For each child, cut off an 8" section of stocking that includes the toe.
-  Use a table covering to protect your workspace, and lay out the materials.



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Tally Ho! What to Do:

- Put the toe of the stocking inside a mug or glass, and stretch the other end up over the rim to keep the stocking open.
- Put 2 teaspoons of grass seed in the tip of the toe of the stocking.
- Fill the rest of the stocking with potting soil until it's roughly the size of a tennis ball.
- Tie a knot in the open end of the stocking to close it, and remove the "head" from the mug. The part with the knot is now the bottom of Nature Cat's head, and the toe of the stocking is the top.
- Make Nature Cat's nose by pinching a bit of filled stocking in the middle of the head and twisting. Keep the nose in place by putting a rubber band around it. (Twist the rubber band around the nose enough times to make it secure and hide the rubber band behind the nose.)
- Cut out the picture of Nature Cat's body. Glue or tape it to the front of the yogurt cup. Wait for glue to dry.
- Fill mug with water and dunk the top of the head in to moisten the soil.
- Fill the yogurt container about halfway with water. Put Nature Cat's head on top with the knotted end of the stocking dangling down in the water.
- Cut out the picture of the top of Nature Cat's head. Use a toothpick to poke a hole in his hat on one end, and secure the other end just above the nose.
- Put your Nature Cat head in direct sunlight.
- Check every day to make sure the head is moist. If not, drip a few drops of water on the top of his head. If the water in the yogurt cup runs low, refill it halfway.
- Tally ho! Watch it grow! In about one week, you should see some sprouts of "fur" on Nature Cat's head. After 3-4 weeks, he should have a full head of grass fur.



Onward and Yonward! Take It Further:

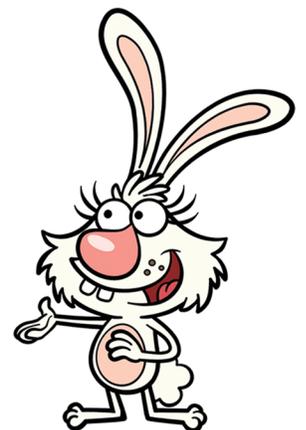
Things to talk about: Talk about what seeds need to grow, and how different types of plants grow best in different conditions. Some plants only need a little sunlight, while others need a lot. Some like lots of water, but other plants, like cacti, hardly need any.

Things to do: Go for a walk and look at the different types of grass that grow in your neighborhood. Does it all look the same? Can you notice any differences from one patch of grass to another?

Look in a Book:

To learn more about seeds and plants, check out books like these:

- Weakland, Mark. **Seeds Go, Seeds Grow**. Capstone Press, 2011.
- Gibbons, Gale. **From Seed to Plant**. Holiday House, 1993.
- Fleming, Denise. **In the Tall, Tall Grass**. Owlet Books, 1995.



Cut out these two pictures to make your grass head look like Nature Cat!

