

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

illustrated by
Steven Kellogg

When Jack's mother sent him to sell their cow, she hoped he'd come back with enough money to support them for quite a while. What he did come back with was a handful of beans! But they were magic beans, or so the man he sold the cow to said. In frustration, Jack's mother threw the beans out the window. And we all know the sight which greeted their eyes the next morning.... a BEANSTALK that reached up to the sky!!

To transition to this activity talk again about how plants grow from seeds. What do they need to germinate? Ask them if they think they could grow a beanstalk. How big do they think it would get? As big as Jack's? Bigger than they are? When they plant their own bean seeds they will be able to answer these questions.

MATERIALS: 1 clear two liter plastic soda bottle per child, rich soil, 4 bean seeds per child (one each pinto, navy, kidney, and lima -- or any four different types), cotton balls, water, worksheet, crayons, tape or glue.

ACTIVITY: Following the directions on the attached sheet (courtesy Carol Colgate), have the children plant their seeds and make their scenery. I usually have the children plant four different types of seeds for purposes of comparison, but for younger children you may wish to just plant three of one type.) If they plant more than one type, have them label to show which is which, and note this information in their log/chart. Have each child keep an observation chart for his bean seeds. Discuss with them the difference between observation and inference: they are to record only what they observe happening, not what they think is happening. Each day, record the amount of water added, and note any growth observed. If you are fortunate enough to find bottles which are clear all the way to the bottom, you may be able to watch the root system develop. NOTE: You may wish to cut the turrets at the top after the children plant their seeds; the cut points are very sharp and may scratch.

TEACHER NOTES: Kentucky Wonder, Rust Resistant (pole) garden beans are a great climbing bean and very hardy to use with young students.

STANDARDS:

BSL: 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.8, 3.1, 3.2, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 9.1, 11.4, 12.2, 12.5, 12.7

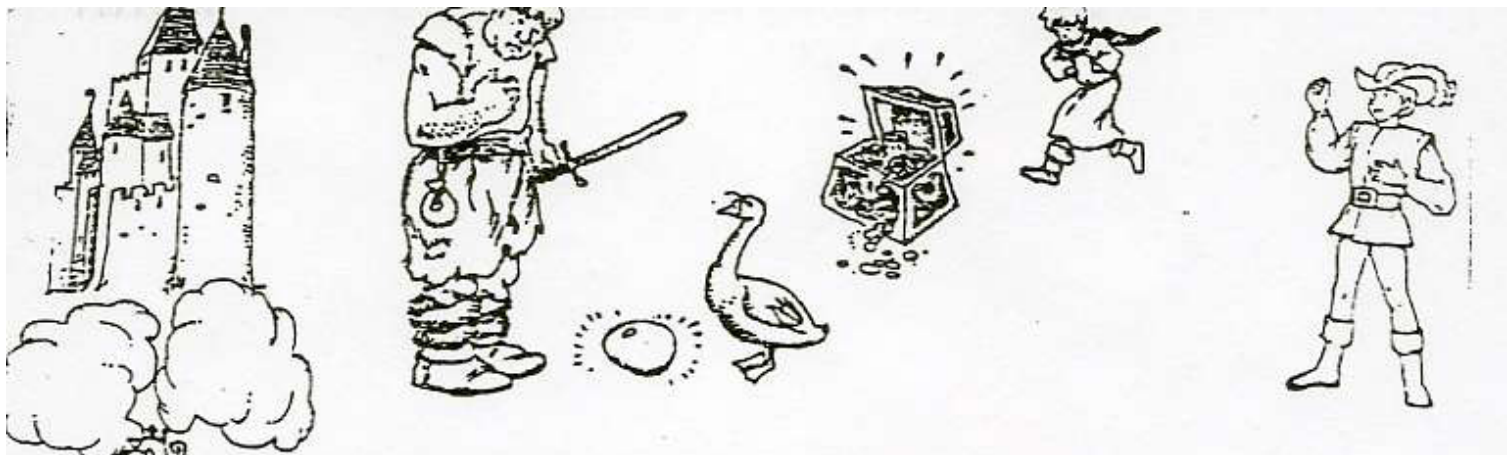
NCTM: 1a, 2b, 2c, 4d, 5c, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7c, 7d, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, 11a, 11d, 11c, 13b

SCS: A1, C1, C3, H3

Jack and the Beanstalk. Illus. by Steven Kellogg. NY: William Morrow & Co., c1991. ISBN# 688102514.

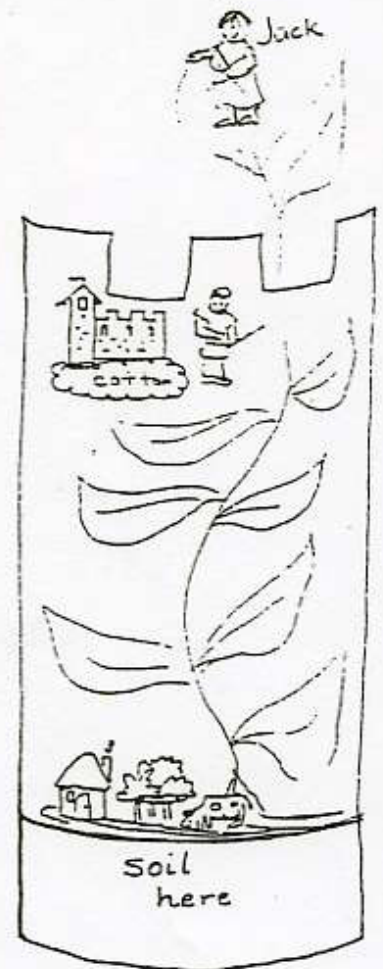
Harris, Jim. Jack and the Giant: a Story Full of Beans. Flagstaff, AZ: Rising Moon, c1997. ISBN#0873586808. A southwestern version of the traditional tale, in which a boy climbs to the top of a giant beanstalk and uses his quick wits to outsmart the giant cattle rustler Wild Bill Hiccup.

Jack and the Beanstalk. [Once- Upon-a-Time-Tale] Adapted by Jane Jerrard. Illus. by Susan Spellman. Publications International, Ltd., c1992. ISBN#1561734942.



JACK AND THE GROWING BEANSTALK TOWER

1. Cut the top from a two liter plastic bottle.
2. Cut turrets around the top edge to look like a castle.
3. Let students color and cut out the characters and scenery on this page to use to decorate the bottle.
4. Glue scenery on the bottle to create a scene. Cotton balls may be added to the clouds under the castle to look like puffy clouds.
5. Put soil in the bottom of the bottle.
6. Plant about three "magic" beans. (Use a pole type green bean rather than a bush bean.)
7. After the magic beans start to grow, attach tiny Jack on the beanstalk with a thread. Tie him onto a leaf and he will grow up through the clouds, the castle, and beyond the top of the bottle.



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