



# CORN BABY ACTIVITY

## START CORN IN A PLASTIC BAG

### **Background Information:**

Most corn grown in the U.S. is used to feed livestock or for human consumption. Poultry, beef, pork and dairy producers use more than 60-percent of all the corn grown in the U.S. The rest is exported or sold to other countries is also used to feed livestock. For more info, visit

[www.ncga.com](http://www.ncga.com)

### **Materials Needed:**

- Jewelry size resealable bag (found in craft stores)
- Crystal soil (found at most garden centers)
- Hole punch
- Water
- Measuring spoons
- Corn plant
- Seeds of corn- (packaged)
- Yarn or string

### **Procedure:**

1. Show stalks of corn (or corn plants) to the class and pass around a bag of cob or shelled corn. Explain that corn is a “renewable resource,” which means they are never “all used up” because more can always be grown.
2. Explain that corn is a valuable source of many nutrients that our bodies need every day. Corn is found in many different products that we use each day that have been processed into such things as: starch (examples: baby food, baking powder, salad dressing, bookbinders, glue); syrup (examples: soda pop, chewing gum, dessert icing, fireworks, adhesives); ethanol fuel (examples: popular additive to reduce reliance on foreign oil and improve air quality in polluted U.S. cities), dextrose (bakery goods, fruit juices, peanut butter, antibiotics, citric acid, lysine) and oil (examples: margarine, potato chips, soup, soap, paint, rust preventative).
3. Complete Corn Baby Activity with class.

### **Activity Directions:**

1. Punch a hole in the top of your bag (above the seal).
2. Place ¼ teaspoon of crystal soil into the bag.
3. Add one tablespoon of water.
4. Gently push in two seeds of corn.
5. Seal your bag firmly.
6. Insert the yarn to make a necklace.
7. Wear your Corn Baby around your neck and under your shirt to keep it in a warm, dark place.

8. Check your Corn Baby each day for germination and record the growth.