

Jasper's Beanstalk Activity Ideas

Growing Plants: This story is ideal to use as part of your outdoor topic to help the children understand how plants grow. You can do this in a variety of different ways including holding a sunflower growing competition to see who can grow the tallest 'beanstalk' or by planting a variety of different plants in your setting's garden (or in plant pots) and monitoring their growth. We also have a brilliant [lesson plan](#) from the Send a Cow charity all about measuring the growth of plants, which includes record sheets.

Investigating Plants: If you have access to a microscope then let the children use it to look at a variety of different plants and flowers and discuss what they can see. The Royal Microscopy Society offer schools the chance to borrow a set of microscopes free of charge, you can find out more at their [website](#). There are also lots of photographs of plant cells available [here](#).

Making a Film: Jasper's Beanstalk is a relatively simple story that only contains one character and is based in one location, which makes it an ideal choice to make into a film. All you need is a camera with the capacity to record video, a toy cat and a selection of garden tools (and a garden of course!). You can easily edit the film together using Microsoft Movie Maker, which is free and comes with most Microsoft computers. You can watch the video that Picknalls First School in Staffordshire made [here](#).

Days of the Week: Read through the story a couple of times so the children know it relatively well and then discuss what Jasper does on each day of the week. Then split the children into pairs (or threes, depending on your class size) and give them each a day of the week and ask them to draw a picture of what Jasper did i.e. found a bean, dug a hole, watered the beanstalk. You can then use flashcards to help the children remember the days of the week by mixing them up and asking them to reorder them.

The Beanstalk Song: Jasper's Beanstalk has been put to music and lots of different actions have been created for each day. The words are the same as in the original book and you can see an example of the actions being performed in a nursery school on [YouTube](#).

Maths: Present the children with the following maths problem: *Jasper's beanstalk grew 1cm on Monday, it then continued to grow 2cm every day. On what day will it reach 17cm?* Depending on the age group, this activity can be made as easy or as difficult as you like simply by changing the numbers i.e. the beanstalk grew 1cm a day for 4 days, on which day did it stop growing?

