

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- egg cartons
- potting soil (maybe donated by local nursery!)
- plastic spoons
- small paper cups
- seeds

ALL HAIL THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE COMING TWELVE MONTHS!



The New Year is a time of celebration, and a time for reflecting on how we can grow during the coming year. Talk to students about what resolutions and personal growth mean. Ask what they hope to learn over the next twelve months.

Collect empty egg cartons, enough for each student. Bring in snack-size baggies filled with potting soil or dirt from home (see if a local nursery will donate a torn bag to you!). Purchase a bag of sunflower seeds (about \$1.50 for a 5 oz. bag) and a bag of basil seeds (about \$1.80 a bag).

**IN OLDEN TIMES,
ROSEMARY WAS
BELIEVED TO CALM
NAUGHTY CHILDREN!**

Tell students to write their names on their carton lid. Give half of the students 12 sunflower seeds and give the other half of the students 12 basil seeds. Give each student a soil baggie, a plastic spoon, and a small cup of water. Students will fill the individual cups with a little dirt, plant their seeds, and water them. (Don't add too much or the carton will start to fall apart.)

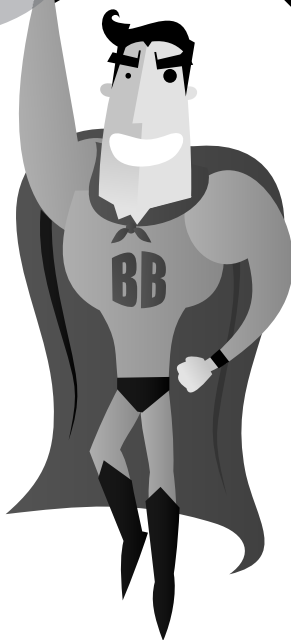
Place the cartons in a safe, sunny area of your classroom. Students can watch and record the growth of their plants. Did the flower seeds grow faster than the herb seeds, or vice versa? Ask students if they enjoy watching things grow. Remind them that they have grown, too, while the plants were growing!

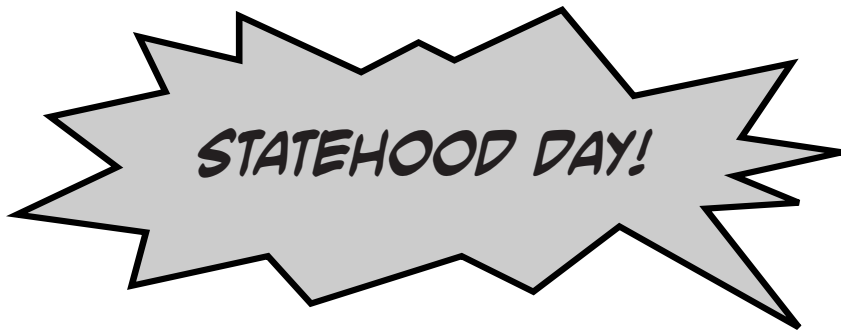
When the weather turns warm enough, plant the entire carton in your school's garden area. The carton will disintegrate on its own.

Large seeds are easier for kids to handle. Easy-to-grow seeds include gourds, pot marigolds, nasturtiums, thyme, and mint.

ASK YOUR STUDENTS:

"Plants need water and sunlight to grow. What do children need to grow?"



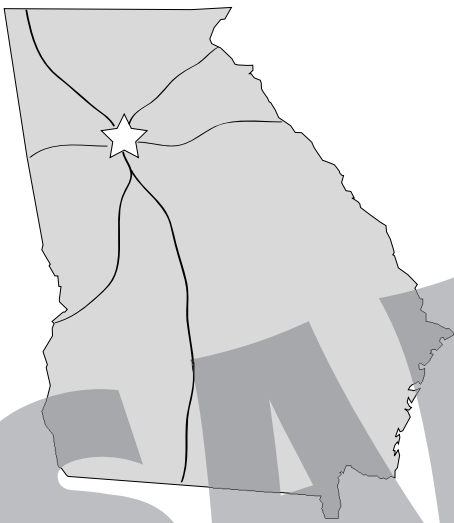


WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- butcher paper or tag board
- star stickers
- yarn
- assorted supplies (see below for ideas!)

A MAP TO SHOW WHAT MAKES YOUR STATE SPECIAL!

Seize the opportunity to teach your students about the state they live in by celebrating Statehood Day! Visit the Internet or state history book to determine what date your state joined the Union. Then use inexpensive supplies to create your own state map and fact sheet!



On a large sheet of butcher paper or tag board, draw a large outline of your state and post it on the board or bulletin board. (Use an overhead projector to trace an outline if needed.) Ask students to write down geographic facts about your state. Some examples: names of major cities, landforms, important landmarks, water features, major interstates or highways, etc.

Use the facts to fill in your map. Have students use star stickers to mark the location of important cities or landmarks on the outline. Write the name of the city or location next to its star. Glue yarn to mark major interstates or highways in their appropriate locations and label. Use blue construction paper to mark major water features, such as the ocean or lakes. Mountains? Glue candy corn on the map. Forest area? Use toothpicks! Desert? Sandpaper! Be as creative as possible when filling in your state map.

Don't forget to include a map legend so others will know what the candy corn and toothpicks represent!

Facts about state symbols, history, and citizens can be written around the outside of your state outline to complete the project. Invite other classes and parents to view the map and learn about your state.

