

Plant a Seed

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Read the “Directions” sheets for step-by-step instructions.

SUMMARY

In this activity, children will place a seed in soil, care for it, and track the plant’s growth.

WHY

By caring for a plant, children will contribute to Lady Bird Johnson’s mission of beautification. Children can also develop observation and measuring skills through tracking the plant’s growth.

RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP

This activity will work best for children in 1st through 4th grade.

TIME

- 15 minutes each day, over several days

CHALLENGE WORDS

- **beautification:** to fight against ugliness and improve the looks of a place or thing
- **environment:** the conditions that surround someone or something; for people, this includes the weather, earth, plants, animals, and more
- **native species:** plants or animals that have always lived in a place
- **species:** a group of individual plants or animals that share common characteristics and a name

GET READY

- Read *Miss Lady Bird’s Wildflowers* together. *Miss Lady Bird’s Wildflowers* is a biography of Claudia “Lady Bird” Johnson, wife of President Lyndon Baines Johnson. For tips on reading this book together, check out the [Guided Reading Activity](http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/firstlady/firstlady_reading.pdf) (http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/firstlady/firstlady_reading.pdf).
- Read the *Step Back in Time* sheets.

More information at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/firstlady/>

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YOU NEED

- *Directions* sheets (*attached*)
- *ThinkAbout* sheet (*attached*)
- *Step Back in Time* sheets (*attached*)
- *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers* book (*optional*)
- Soil
- Seeds, preferably for a native species for your area
- Container, preferably recycled
- Water
- Ruler

More information at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/firstlady/>



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For more information, visit the National Museum of American History Web site <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/firstlady/>.

art of a woman’s traditional role in America has been to care for her family and help the needy in her community. Similarly, a wife of a U.S. president (called “the first lady”) often supports charities and other social causes. Recent first ladies have supported and brought attention to literacy, health care, prevention of drug abuse, volunteer work, and taking care of historic places. Their examples have encouraged women to take action at many levels, and have provided role models for women and girls.



Illustration of Lady Bird Johnson and her daughters in their garden.

Illustration from *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers*



Lady Bird Johnson in her inaugural gown, 1965. Courtesy of Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum

Claudia “Lady Bird” Johnson, the wife of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, was first lady from 1963 to 1969. She took her job as first lady seriously. She carefully chose and announced the project she would work on while her husband was president. In a 1994 interview, she told the *Washington Post*, “Once you are [first lady] and you want to serve whatever your husband’s efforts are on behalf of the country, you choose those which make your heart sing.”

