

How to... grow a magic beanstalk

Suitable for all ages

You will need:

- Thin card
- Template (optional)
- A stick (suggestions below)
- Clothes peg
- Coloured pens/pencils
- Scissors
- Tape
- Cotton wool
- Glue
- Bean seeds
- Paper towels, tissue or cotton wool
- A pot (suggestions below)



If you enjoyed Daniel King's reading of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, why not try growing your own magic beanstalk? This activity sheet includes a template to help you with cutting out your castle in the sky.

Instructions

Step 1:

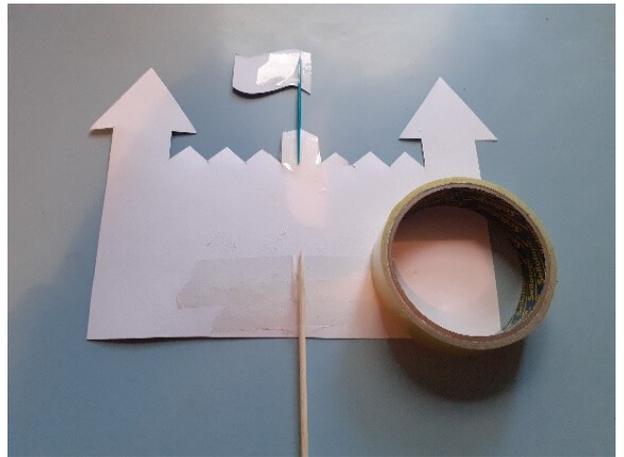
Print the template picture of the giant's castle onto thin card or draw your own. You can also print it onto paper and then stick it onto card from packaging to make it stiffer. Colour in your castle and cut it out. Can you design a flag for the giant's castle? What would it have on it?



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Step 2:

Use tape to attach a stick to the back of the castle. You could also use a toothpick or small stick to attach your flag. If you have a garden, park or woods nearby you can look for something suitable. You could also use BBQ skewers (or chopsticks), drinking straws, pencils, knitting needles or garden cane.



Step 3:

Glue some cotton wool along the bottom of your castle to make the clouds. You could also draw and cut out some clouds if you don't have cotton wool.



Step 4:

Draw, colour and cut out two leaves. Stick them to a clothes peg with glue or tape. This helps to keep your castle the right way round and upright once it is in the pot.



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Step 5:

Find a pot. You could use a jam jar, a paper cup or a tin can. If you have a clear pot like a jam jar this is better as you'll be able to watch the seed germinate. Stand your castle up in the pot and use the clothes peg to secure it.

Growing your beanstalk

Step 1:

Put crumpled up paper towels, tissue or cotton wool in the centre of the pot.

Step 2:

Put two or three bean seeds around the outside of the tissue or cotton wool.

Step 3:

Water the paper towels, tissue or cotton wool so that it is moist but not too wet.

Step 4:

Water the seeds daily to keep the tissue moist.

Step 5:

Check seeds two times a day for germination.

What next?

Chart the growth of your beanstalk.

Think about:

How long does it take for something to start growing?

How long is it before there is a leaf?

Keep a photo or sketch diary, making a picture of each new development and a note of the day it happens.

Draw out a simple number line and count along the days, making note of germination, first leaf etc. as you go along.

Draw a graph with a x-axis showing the number of days and a y-axis showing the height of your plant.



The Giant's Castle

Can you design a flag? What would it have on it?

Attach with a stick.

