

What's in a Seed?

Materials:

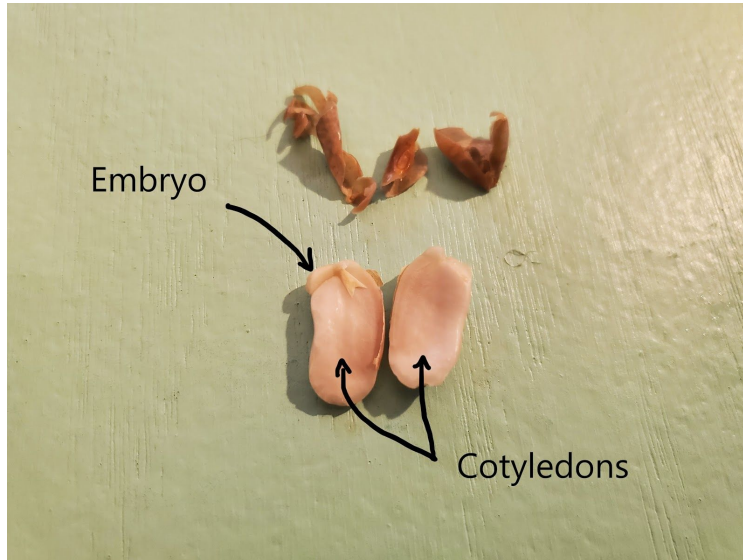
- Large seeds like dried beans or dried peas
- Bowl with water



Step 1: Place seeds in a bowl of water and soak for 24 hours. After soaking, remove seeds from water and pat dry. Seeds should be softer and swollen.



Step 2: Remove seed coat. The seed coat is the colored covering on the outside of the seed. Using your fingernail gently peel back the covering.



Step 3: Split the seed open. Can you identify these two parts? The **embryo** is where the plant grows from. Can you see the two little leaves? These are the first leaves that emerge when the plant grows. The **cotyledons** are the rest of the seed. This is the food that the embryo feeds on to grow!

What do you notice about your seed? Can you find all the parts? What other seeds could you try to dissect?

