

# TURTLE SPROUTS: HOW TO GROW A TURTLE!



We will assemble these kits altogether with Ithaca Children's Garden during your Google Meet online class time. Please wait for your Google Meet before you assemble your kit.

## What's In Your Kit:

- Knee High Stocking (sock)
- Grass Seeds
- Craft Foam Turtle
- Newspaper sheet
- Soil



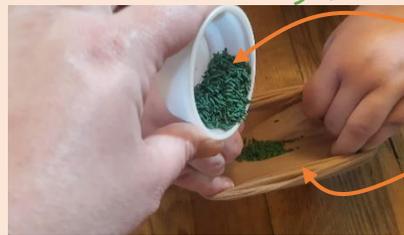
## What You'll Need:

- Bowl
- Plate
- Water
- Scissors (optional)
- Permanent markers, sharpies, ballpoint pens, or crayons (optional)
- Googly Eyes, Glue (optional)

1. Decorate the craft foam turtle. Add a face, patterns on the legs and tail, anything that makes you happy. Markers and crayons work well.
2. Put the knee high stocking on your arm and stretch it up to your elbow like it's a long glove. Starting near your elbow roll the stocking down until it reaches your wrist. From here you can remove it from your hand, holding it open to make a bowl.

*For the next 2 steps, ask a family member for help holding your "bowl" open.*

3. Working over the sheet of newspaper, pour the grass seed from the envelope into your stocking "bowl." The newspaper will help keep your floor clean if you spill any soil or seeds.



Grass seeds

Rolled stocking

4. Next add soil to your stocking "bowl." You can use a cup or large spoon to scoop the soil from the baggie.



Rolled stocking with grass seeds

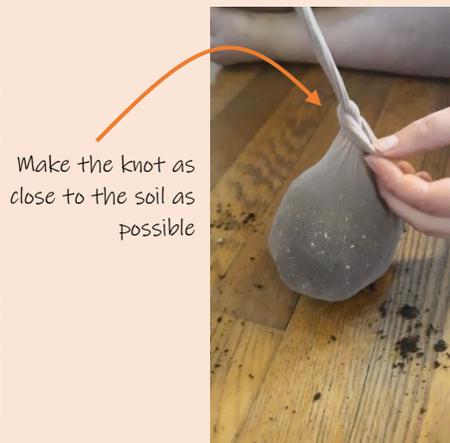
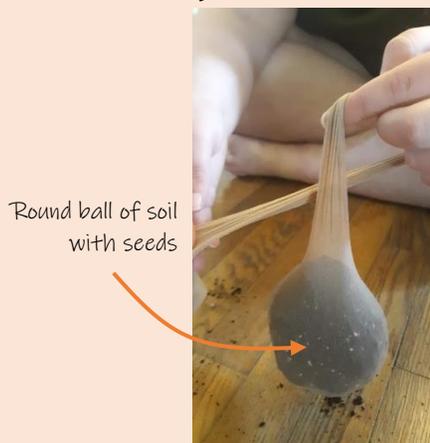
Soil

5. Your stocking might look like a snake or a worm right now. If that's the case, hold the opening closed and gently bounce the soil end on your hand until you get a ball shape.

This activity is brought to you by Ithaca Children's Garden.

We hope that you will come visit someday soon! Our mission is to Connect children to nature to create a more beautiful, resilient, and just world. We believe that *every* child deserves time in nature

6. Just like on a balloon, tie a knot, as close to the soil as possible. (You can cut the excess of stocking off with scissors if you'd like.)



7. Looking at your filled "shell" check the grass seed. It needs light to germinate so don't squish it into the soil. However, if it's bunched up in one spot, spread it out with your fingertips.

8. Just like all plants, your grass seed needs water to grow. If you try to pour water on the "shell," it will run off. Fill a bowl with water and set your shell in the bowl. It's ok if it floats a bit on top. Leave it in the bowl for 1-2 hours. This is how you will water your Turtle Sprout as it grows. Check it every day. It may need water again every 1-3 days.



9. Put your damp "shell" on top of your foam turtle, making sure the seeds are showing at the top. Set the turtle and shell on a plate to catch any water drips and find a place on a sunny windowsill.



10. Watch your turtle sprout grow! Remember to check it every day or two and water using a bowl if the soil is dry. As your grass grows, you can trim it with scissors.



For a chance to win this friendly stuffy, Speedy the Tortoise, please take a photo of your turtle once the grass is one inch tall and e-mail it to: [alana@ithacachildrensgarden.org](mailto:alana@ithacachildrensgarden.org) and tell us what you liked about growing your own Gaia turtle!



Ithaca Children's Garden is a giant natural play space for children and is free and open every day of the year to everyone, during all daytime hours! Our garden is home to Gaia, the giant turtle. During your visit you can run and jump and climb on Gaia!