

This will give children an opportunity to handle a seed and see for themselves what it really is.

## Concept:

A seed is a tiny package of plant life. It contains a baby plant and its food store.

## Materials:

A packet of dry lima beans. Soak beans overnight in cold water — one per child (lima is chosen because it is the biggest commonly available seed).

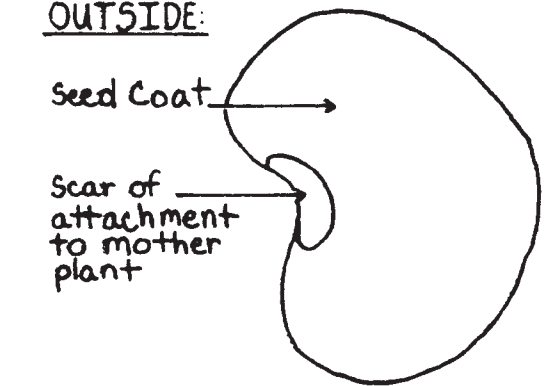
## Directions:

- 1) Describe the seed as a small package of plant life containing a baby plant and its food store, wrapped up in a protective coat.
  - 2) Examination of seed: Note the skin or seed coat (look for the scar showing where it was attached to mother plant or pod). Carefully remove the skin with fingers. The seed coat protects the seed from damage, holds its parts together and, probably, protects it from drying out completely. After removal of the coat, the seed falls into two halves — the seed leaves. Each is fat because it contains stored food. Attached to one seed leaf is the baby plant consisting of a root and two tiny leaves, showing veins. These will become the first true leaves of the new plant, functioning as food factories. From the root will grow all the branch roots needed to take in water. Mention might be made of the fact that we eat limas because their seed leaves are packed with food which is good for us, too.
- This activity could be expanded by showing children that seeds come inside seed boxes, often called pods. You could use pea pods, various types of bean pods, silk tree (mimosa) pods, honey locust pods, peanut pods.

## OUTSIDE:

Seed Coat

Scar of attachment to mother plant



## INSIDE:

