

# Growing a Stone Age crop

## Objectives

- To grow and care for plants outdoors.
- To appreciate the skill of Stone Age people in farming crops.

## Cross-curricular links

### Science

#### SC2

- 3 Green plants. All aspects of this curriculum area can be taught in this context.

## Resources

This activity needs to be begun in March for a picking time in July but see growing requirements on the packet of beans you choose.

Area of soil not fouled by dogs or contaminated with glass. This may be the ground used for testing digging sticks in activity 11A and 11B.

Each child or group will need six broad beans, oak or ash digging stick, three long thin cane-like twigs per growing bean plant to provide support, string, safety spectacles.

## Note

Select broad bean seeds for sowing in March and that have long stems so they need support.

## Starter

Remind the children of how people of the early Stone Age were hunter gatherers then tell them that in the later Stone Age people began farming. They reared animals and grew crops but still hunted and gathered to make sure that they had enough food. If the children have done activity 11A and 11B you can remind them of it and say that they are now going to sow seeds and grains and raise some crops.

## Main activities

1. Issue the broad beans and tell them that as the plants grow they will need support for their stems and show them how they will make three canes into a support by tying the ends together. If they have made the model shelter in activity 8 and learnt how to tie knots in activity 7 remind them of it. Discuss how skills

learnt in one area of survival can be useful in another.

2. Let the children dig holes with their digging sticks. The holes should be about 5cm deep but you may like them to experiment by sowing the beans at different depths.
3. Over the following weeks and months let the children inspect their plants regularly. Tell them that other plants growing in the soil close by will take goodness (minerals) from the soil that the bean plants could use. This means that they should remove them by weeding.
4. As the plants grow the children could make the supports and guide the plants stems around them.
5. Later the children should look for flower buds, the opening of the flowers, the visiting of the flowers by bees and development of the pods.
6. Let the children harvest their crop when ready.

## Plenary

When the crops are harvested let the children display their pods then open them and display their beans. You could make arrangements for them to be cooked in accordance with school policies.

## Outcomes

The children learn:

- How to grow a crop.
- About the life cycle of a green plant.