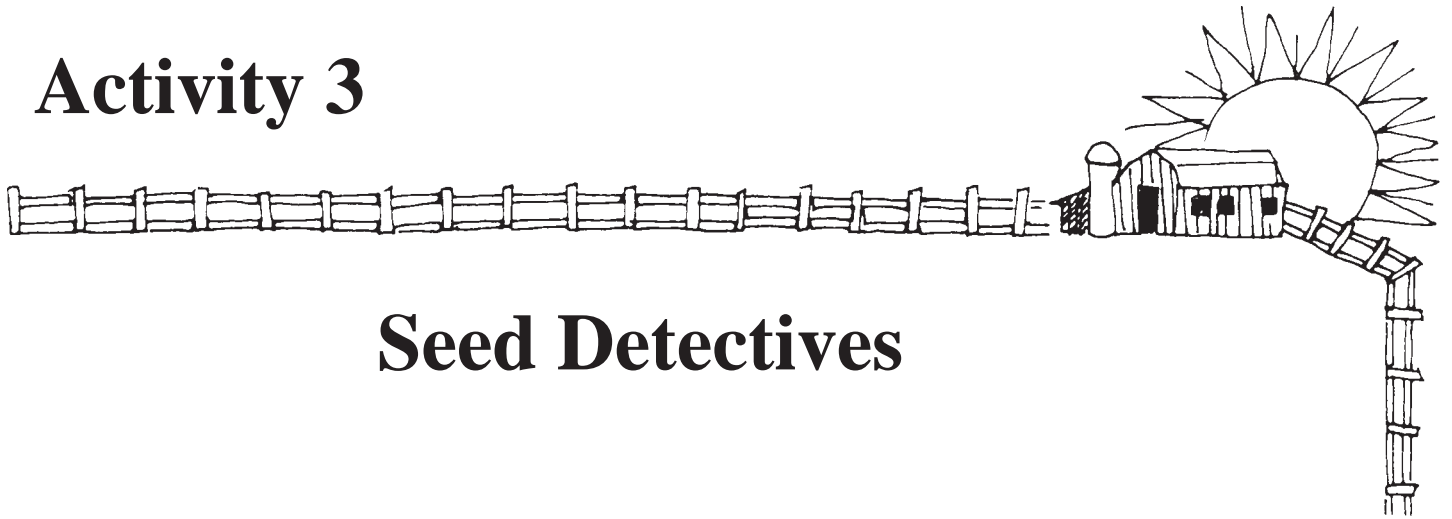


# Activity 3



## Seed Detectives

<b>Activity:</b>	Students examine seeds to determine the type of grain and identify a product made from each.
<b>Curriculum Fit:</b>	<b>Science - Grade 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Topic D: Evidence and Investigation</li></ul>
<b>Agriculture Concepts:</b>	Economic Importance Production, Processing & Marketing Systems Diversity
<b>Cognitive Level:</b>	Application, Analysis
<b>Materials Required:</b>	Booklet, <i>The Basis of Food</i> , available free of charge from The Grain Academy Commercial bird food Magnifying glasses
<b>Time Required:</b>	One class period.

**Note:** The Grain Academy  
c/o Alberta Pool  
Box 2700  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2P5  
(403) 263-4594

# Background — For the Teacher

Grain is the basic food for the human race. Because of the tremendous importance of grain production to Canada's and Alberta's economy, students need to be aware and understand its value and role in agriculture. In this activity, students start with the grain seeds and learn to identify our major crop grains and the products made from them.



## Procedure

### Preparation

1. Divide students into groups of 3-4. Give each group a magnifying glass, 6 copies of the Student Task Sheet, and a portion of the birdseed.

### Introduction

2. Tell the students they are detectives trying to identify types of grain from the seeds they have been given.

### Activity

3. Ask the students to observe, describe, feel, smell and draw the grain seeds, recording their findings for each type of grain on a Task Sheet.
4. Have the groups refer to the booklet, *The Basis of Food*, to check their findings and identify one or more products made from each type of grain.
5. Not all of the seed types will be found in the booklet. Have students try to match unidentified seeds to the contents listed on the label of the birdseed package.

**Note:** Caution the students not to eat the seeds - grain not intended for food may have been treated.

### Conclusion

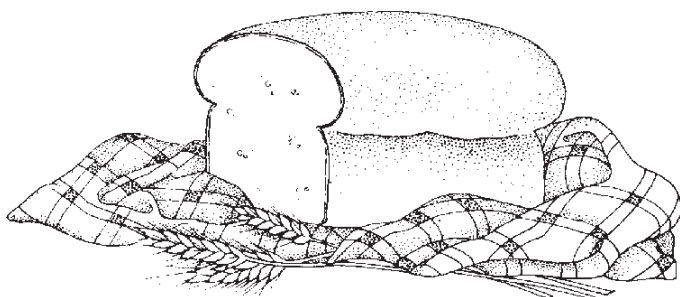
6. Each group shares its results with the class.

### For Discussion

1. What characteristics make each type of seed unique?
2. What is Canada's most important grain crop? Why?

### Related Activities

1. Design a collage showing the different products that can be made from grains.
2. Create a picture or design and fill in objects and spaces using grain seeds.
3. Have students collect labels from products used at home that contain grains. These labels can be made into a visual display in the shape of a large plant.





# Seed Detective Work

Names of Detectives: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Grain

Drawing of the Seed

Description of colour, size and shape:

How does the seed feel?

Is there a smell? Describe it.

Using the booklet,  
*The Basis of Food*,  
find at least one product made from  
this grain.

