Garden STEM at Home
A-Maze-ing Light

WE GROW MINDS, TOO.
OBJECTIVE:
STUDENTS WILL CONDUCT AN EXPERIMENT TO INVESTIGATE THAT PLANTS NEED LIGHT TO GROW.

SOURCE
United States Department of Agriculture Dig In! Curriculum

BACKGROUND
What do plants need to grow? Essential to all plants is light. This classic experiment allows students to visually see the powerful effect of light on plants.

INSTRUCTIONS
1. Ask students to create a plant maze box based on the examples below. Bean plants are an excellent choice for this experiment due to their growth rate.

2. Ask students to create an if/then statement with the following stem: If plants need light to grow, then ...

3. Check progress each day over the course of 2 weeks, watering as needed.

4. Ask students to review their If/Then statement and write a conclusion based on their results.

5. Optional extension: Create a more challenging plant maze to see if you can stump your bean plant.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
USDA Dig In! Curriculum:

Little Green Thumbs Plant Light Maze (alternate version of activity):

Greensboro Science Center step-by-step instructions with photos:
https://greensborosciencecenter.wordpress.com/2017/04/20/diy-science-light-maze/