**Vocabulary: Seed Germination**



**Vocabulary**

* Controlled experiment – an experiment in which only one *variable* is changed at a time.
	+ Generally, in a controlled experiment, all conditions are kept the same except for the variable being tested.
	+ In some cases, it is impossible to perform a perfectly controlled experiment. For example, a scientist cannot perform a controlled experiment on animal behavior in the wild because there are too many uncontrollable variables, such as weather and the presence of other animals.
* Germinate – to sprout or begin to grow.
	+ *Seeds* contain small plant embryos and stored food. The outside of a seed is called a seed coat. Germination occurs when the stored food absorbs water and swells, causing the seed coat to crack. At this point, the plant embryo begins growing first a root and then a shoot.
* Hypothesis – a tentative explanation that can be tested by doing experiments.
	+ Hypotheses often are written as if/then statements. For example “If fertilizer is added to the soil, then the plants will grow more quickly.”
* Mean – the sum of a set of numbers divided by the number of items in the set.
	+ The mean of a set of numbers also is known as the set’s *average*.
* Seed – a plant embryo and food supply surrounded by a protective covering.
	+ About 80% of the world’s plants use seeds to reproduce.
* Trial – a single time an experiment is conducted.
* Variable – a factor that can be changed in an experiment.