



Do It Yourself (DIY) Activity

Vegetable Cloning DIY



Duration: **10–15 min**



Difficulty: **Easy**



Cost: **\$0 to \$10**

Learn how to clone a vegetable from just a stem!

Material List

- 1 Romaine lettuce stalk
- 1 Drinking glass
- 1 Cutting knife
- 1 Cup of water

Adult
supervision

Instructions

- 1 Carefully cut off the top of the lettuce, leaving just a few centimeters of the stem. Lettuce that still has a little brown on the bottom of the stem works best.
- 2 Place the cut stem in a glass, and fill it with water until it reaches halfway up the stem.
- 3 Place the glass by a windowsill and change the water each day. New leaves will begin to grow in a matter of days.

How It Works

Some plants, like the romaine lettuce, reproduce sexually, BUT they can also reproduce asexually. When you leave the stem of the lettuce in water for a couple of days, you see that it grows new leaves. This works because lettuce cells can reproduce by copying their DNA and splitting to make new cells! This is a form of asexual reproduction. Farmers can use this property of lettuce for making copies of their best plants.

