



# SOYBEANS

In 2024, Indiana ranked 4th in the nation for soybean production. Throughout the state over 5 million acres of land are planted with soybeans.

Soybeans are part of the legume family and are native to East Asia. Soybeans were brought to North America in the 1800s from China and have been grown here ever since. Each individual plant can produce anywhere from 60 to 80 pods.

In Indiana, soybeans are planted in the spring and are harvested in the fall. Soybean plants take anywhere from 100-130 days to fully mature. Once the plants are fully grown they will be harvested by a combine. Indiana farmers will collectively produce over 355 million bushels annually which is equal to bushel baskets wrapping around the earth 2.6 times.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Soy crayons were first invented in the 1990s during a contest hosted by Purdue University. They are now manufactured and used across the nation.



## SOYBEAN PLASTIC

Ask an adult for help!

### MATERIALS:

- ½ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- 1 tsp soybean oil
- 7 x 9 inch dish
- Food coloring
- Metal cookie cutters
- Parchment paper

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Put ½ cup cornstarch in a 7x9 dish.
2. Add ½ cup of water.
3. Add soybean oil.
4. Stir until mixture is combined and smooth.
5. Add one or multiple colors, gently swirl colors to create a tie-dye effect.
6. Microwave for 2 minutes and 30 seconds.
7. Remove dish from microwave and let cool for 10 minutes.
8. Cut shapes using cookie cutter or knife, and dry on parchment paper.



# LIFE CYCLE OF A SOYBEAN



The soybean seed is planted.



The soybean seed sprouts.



The soybean plant grows.



The soybean plant blooms.



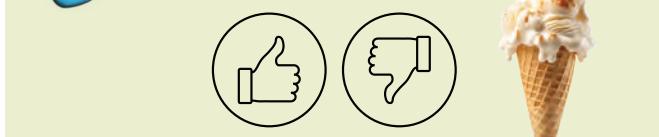
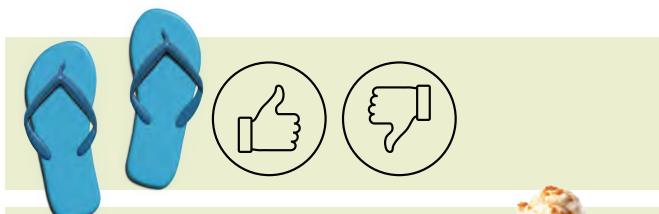
The soybean blooms wilt and a seed pod forms.



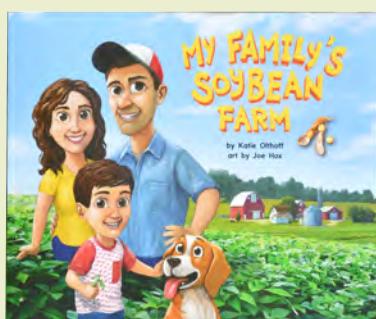
The soybean plant dries down and is harvested.

## Which products have soy in them?

Color in the thumbs up or the thumbs down to show your answer. Go through the answers as a class and circle the correct answer.



Answer: All of these products contain soy in some way.



### EDUCATOR GUIDE:



Want to access more resources? Scan the QR code for the *My Family's Soybean Farm* educator guide.

Indiana Agtivity Sheets are provided by Indiana Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom.

For more information, please contact [inaitc@infb.org](mailto:inaitc@infb.org) or visit [www.infb.org/aitc](http://www.infb.org/aitc).

## Soybean Seed Necklace

### MATERIALS:

- 2-3 soybeans
- 2"x3" plastic bag
- One cotton ball
- Scissors
- Yarn
- Ruler
- Hole Punch
- Plastic cup of water
- Dropper/Pipette



### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Place a cotton ball in a small plastic bag.
2. Add one or two soybeans.
3. Use the dropper/pipette to dampen the cotton ball. Be careful and don't add too much or the seed will rot.
4. Seal the bag and punch a hole at the top above the seal.
5. Cut a piece of yarn long enough to fit around your neck like a necklace. Put the seed necklace inside your clothes because the seed needs warmth to grow.
6. Be careful with your seed necklace, so it doesn't break.
7. Give your soybean a name, and watch as the soybean germinates. It will start to grow roots, stems and leaves within three to five days. Chart the growth below:

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3
DAY 4	DAY 5	

Once your seed has germinated, plant your seed in the soil and watch it grow.



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