



# Poblano Pepper Planting

## WORKSHOP TITLE

### DESCRIPTION

The Mexican victory over the skilled, equipped, and vast French army at the city of Puebla in May of 1862 was celebrated across Mexico and into the United States, where Latinos throughout California celebrated the victory of this battle every year. In Puebla, the chile Poblano is a staple ingredient in many signature dishes.

Learn more about the Poblano pepper by planting and caring for your own Poblano pepper plant. This activity will guide you through the steps of making a biodegradable container using recycled newspaper to grow your own Poblano pepper at home.



### MATERIALS

- ruler
- marker
- 1 large, recyclable produce container (clamshell)
- scissors
- 1 full-sized sheet of recycled newspaper
- 1 empty paper towel roll or toilet paper roll (or small, recycled bottle)
- 1 cup of water
- 1 cup of potting soil (purchase from any local garden store or reuse from an old potted plant)
- Poblano pepper seeds (use any variety or pepper seeds purchased from a local garden store)

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

1. Do you know where the poblano pepper comes from?
2. Why is it important to plant seeds in biodegradable containers?

### RESOURCES TO EXPLORE TOGETHER

1. Thong, Roseanne Greenfield. *Green is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2014.
2. McQuinn, Anna. *Lola Planta un Jardín*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2017





# WORKSHOP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place the folded sheet of recycled newspaper on the table and open it up vertically.
  - Use the marker and ruler to measure a 5 x 12-inch strip of newspaper.
  - Cut out the strip using the scissors.
2. Place the strip of newspaper vertically in front of you. Using the empty paper towel roll begin wrapping three inches of the newspaper around it, leaving two inches unwrapped at the end of the paper towel roll.
  - Use both hands to hold and wrap the entire strip of newspaper around the paper towel roll, keeping it tight.
  - With your thumb tuck in all the excess newspaper at the bottom of the paper towel roll.
  - Gently, remove the biodegradable container by pulling the paper towel roll out.
3. Add potting soil inside the biodegradable container. Leave about ¼ inch of space at the top.
4. Gently ruffle the soil to sow two seeds ¼ inch deep directly in the soil.
  - Make sure seeds are covered with soil.
5. Water by wetting your fingers in the cup with water and sprinkling water over the seeds.
  - Do this a few times until the soil feels moist, but not too wet.
  - Check the seeds daily and water if the soil feels dry.
6. Place the biodegradable container inside the recyclable clamshell container in an area with good airflow and enough sunlight, like a windowsill.
  - Close the recyclable clamshell container to help keep the soil warm and moist.
7. After your seeds have germinated open the clamshell container to give them more airflow and watch them grow.
8. Once your pepper plants start to outgrow the biodegradable container, it is time to transplant them straight into the soil or in a large container. To do this:
  - First, take them outside for a few days to get them use to the new environment.
  - There is no need to remove the newspaper. It will naturally decompose into the soil.
  - When planting make a hole twice the size of the biodegradable container.
  - Choose a sunny area for your plant. Pepper plants love the sun!
  - Remember to keep watering your plants if the soil feels dry.
  - With love and tender care, your plants will produce peppers in a couple of months. The peppers will be ready for harvest between July and October.

