1. How seeds grow.

Vocabulary
seed
seedling
germinate

Materials:
ziplock sandwich bags
types of seeds (grass, sunflower, birdseed, ect.)
paper towels
tape
markers

Procedure:

Fold up a paper towel into about fourths (or enough to lie flat and still be kind of thick in the ziplock bag). Get the paper towel pretty damp and place flat inside a ziplock bag. Place a few seeds on one side of the paper towel near the bottom of the bag. Seal the bag (there enough air in the bag for quite a while) and label it. Tape the bags upright on a window that gets sunlight. Observe the seedling growth for 1-2 weeks.

The class can be divided up into groups or partners each having a different type of seed. They can then make predictions about which seed will grow the fastest. They can also make predictions about what a seed needs to grow. Most kids will say light so to test this; a seed bag could be placed in a dark cabinet. Even though plants need light to produce food from photosynthesis, seeds do not. The seed is like an egg and has enough nutrients to start the seedling growth. This is also a good way to show that unlike full grown plants, seed don't need soil. For the first few days, the seeds in the dark should grow just as well as the seeds in the light.

To illustrate the different types of seeds, many examples can be brought in i.e., strawberries, peaches, dandelions, tomatoes, apples, and avocados. You could even start growing an avocado seed by making a slice half way through the seed and submerging it half way in water. This will show how, like animals, not all seed and plants grow at the same rate. Avocados are very slow to germinate.

Not all plants grow from seeds. There are also bulbs (daffodils, tulips, crocus), tubers (iris), and cuttings (spider plant, coleus). Examples of these can be brought in and even grown in the class.