

# Counting Seeds With Farmer Jack

---

## **Standards of Learning**

Science K.7, 1.4, 1.7

English K.1, K.2, K.5, K.6, K.8, 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.8

Math K.1, K.2, K.5, K.6, 1.1, 1.2

## **Objective**

Students will:

- Develop listening comprehension skills
- Identify seasonal changes in plants
- Follow directions
- Count seeds
- Add and subtract basic facts

## **Materials**

- Chart paper
- “Counting Seeds with Farmer Jack” poem (provided)
- 15-20 vegetable seeds per student

## **Background Knowledge**

When planting their crops, farmers always need to think about the number of people their share is going to feed. Therefore, farmers must use a number of mathematical procedures in order to make the most of each year’s crop production.

While listening to the poem, students will use their manipulatives to demonstrate the number of seeds Farmer Jack is planting in the soil.

## **Procedure**

1. Ask the students if they know what a vegetable seed is.
2. Tell them that it is the part of the plant that is planted into the ground. The rest of the vegetable will grow from the seed.
3. Tell the students that today they will be doing a math activity with vegetable seeds.
4. After having written the poem, “Counting Seeds with Farmer Jack,” on chart paper, either echo read or choral read the poem with the students.
5. Talk with the students about any parts of the poem they may not understand.
6. Give each student a pile of 15-20 vegetable seeds.
7. Tell the students that you are going to read the poem aloud again and they should listen.
8. Tell them that as you read the poem, every time you say a number, they should take that many seeds from their pile and put them aside. (You may want the students to draw a line down the middle of a piece of paper or for them to divide their desk in half so their two piles are distinct.)
9. Tell the students that by the end of the poem they should have set aside the total number of seeds Farmer Jack planted in his garden.
10. Read the poem aloud to the students.
11. As you are reading, the students should be setting their seeds aside.
12. After reading, ask the students to count up the number of seeds they set aside.
13. As the students give their answers, there is a possibility that not all students will have the correct number. Therefore, write each answer the students give on the board.
14. Look back at the poem with the students and read it line by line.



15. Ask the students how many seeds Farmer Jack planted in the first line of the poem.  
Write "4" on the board.
16. Ask the students how many seeds Farmer Jack planted in the third line of the poem.  
Write "2" on the board.
17. Ask the students how many seeds Farmer Jack planted in the seventh line of the poem.  
Write "3" on the board.
18. Ask the students how many seeds Farmer Jack planted in the fifteenth line of the poem.  
Write "5" on the board.
19. Place an addition sign between each number on the board.
20. As a class, complete the problem,  $4 + 2 + 3 + 5 = 14$ .
21. Tell the students that Farmer Jack planted 14 seeds in his garden.
22. Ask the students the following questions:
  - Why do you think Farmer Jack planted vegetable seeds?
  - What type of vegetables do you think he planted?
  - What is your favorite vegetable?

### ***Counting Seeds with Farmer Jack***

Four vegetable seeds in the soil,  
All planted in a line.  
Farmer Jack put in two more,  
They were all looking fine.

We will need more vegetables than that,  
Thought Farmer Jack.  
So three more seeds he planted,  
He took them right out of his pack.

Then Farmer Jack asked,  
"How many seeds are here?  
Are there enough  
To last us all year?"

Of course not,  
He knew.  
So five more he added,  
And up they all grew

