



MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS

Ingredients

- Mexican Jumping Beans (*Go to <http://www.jumpingbeansrus.com> to purchase your Mexican jumping beans.*)
- Heat Lamp

Science Terms

- **Larva** – The young, wormlike life cycle stage of some insects, between egg and pupa.
- **Seed** - The part of a flowering plant that can develop into a new plant.

Instructions

STEP 1: Place several of the Mexican jumping beans on a table.

STEP 2: Shine the heat lamp on the Mexican jumping beans. What happens?



Explanation

The Mexican jumping beans jump because there is a tiny caterpillar larva inside each seedpod. When the temperature gets too hot the caterpillar larva snaps its body to make the seedpod jump. Once the caterpillar larva jumps to a cooler spot it will not move as much. The basic needs of the Mexican jumping beans are discovered inside the seedpod. Very few caterpillars inside the seedpods ever become moths. Most die naturally inside the seedpod.

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