Passage III

Germination is the beginning of the growth of a seed after a period of inactivity. The following experiments were designed to compare the amount of time it takes for seeds of different vegetables to germinate.

Experiment 1

Radish seeds were soaked in water for 24 hours and then planted and kept at 25°C for 10 days. Each day the experimenters counted the total number of seeds that had germinated. The results are shown in Graph 1.



Radish Seeds Soaked for 24 Hours

Experiment 2

Bean seeds were soaked in water for 24 hours and then planted and kept at 25°C for 10 days. Each day the experimenters counted the total number of seeds that had germinated. The results are shown in Graph 2.



Passage IV

When one end of a cord under tension is disturbed, the displacement moves down the cord in the form of a *transverse wave.* If the other end of the cord is fixed, the wave is reflected and moves back in the opposite direction encountering other waves moving toward the fixed point. Certain frequencies produce *standing waves*, which are characterized by motionless nodes separating oscillating segments of cord (see Figure 1). For a cord of a given length and density, only certain frequencies will produce standing waves.





A group of students performed three investigations using the setup shown in Figure 2. One end of a cord was fastened to the reciprocating blade of a jig saw and the other was hung over a pulley and attached to a block. A stroboscope measured the frequency of the vibrations in the cord. The length of the cord from the jig saw blade to the pulley was 2 meters, and the length of the standing waves was measured using the meter stick attached to the lab table.



Experiment 1

The students conducted five trials using the same cord of density 0.0076 kilograms per meter and block while adjusting the frequency to produce standing waves at pre-determined wavelengths. The cord tension in all five trials was 2 newtons. They recorded the length and frequency of the waves (see Table 1).

Table 1				
Trial	Wavelength (meters)	Frequency (hertz)		
1	4	4.05		
2	2	8.05		
3	1.3	12.33		
4	1	16.3		
5	0.8	20.25		

Experiment 2

Using the same cord, the students decreased the tension to 1 newton and conducted five more trials, adjusting the frequency to produce standing waves at pre-determined wavelengths (see Table 2).

Table 2				
Trial	Wavelength (meters)	Frequency (hertz)		
1	4	2.87		
2	2	5.74		
3	1.3	8.62		
4	1	11.47		
5	0.8	14.34		

Experiment 3

The students kept the tension at 1 newton but used five different cords of different densities. Again, they conducted five trials, adjusting the frequency to produce standing waves at pre-determined wavelengths and then recording the lengths of the waves and the frequencies (see Table 3).

Table 3					
Trial	Cord Density (kilogram per meter)	Wavelength (meters)	Frequency (hertz)		
1	0.0076	4	2.87		
2	0.011	2	4.77		
3	0.018	1.3	5.60		
4	0.025	1	6.32		
5	0.032	0.8	6.99		