

# Educational Innovations<sup>®</sup>

JPG-100

## Jumping Beans

Jumping beans (*Laspeyresia saltitans*) are found primarily in a small mountainous area of Mexico. In the spring, the female Jumping Bean Moth (*Cydia deshaisiana*) lays eggs on the blooming flowers of the deciduous shrub, *Sebastiania pavoniana*. Several weeks later the eggs hatch, and the very small worm eats into the small pod or “bean” of the host flower.

The pod or “bean” slowly hardens, and the moth larva, which is now living inside, begins to feed on the interior of the pod. When the spring rains come, the pod or bean will fall to the ground and the pods that have a moth larva living inside will begin to jerk, tumble, and roll about on the ground. Jumping beans “jump” as a means of survival. This enables them to move to a cooler place to avoid the heat of the direct sunlight. Over exposure to heat will kill the larva inside the pod, so be careful not to overheat your beans.

Eventually, after several months, the larva will start to spin a cocoon inside the pod. After this stage, metamorphosis will occur and a jumping bean moth will emerge from the pod through a small hole. Unless you happen to have jumping bean shrubs growing in your garden, the marvelous life cycle will be terminated as the moths finally die.

### Storing and Caring for Your Beans

From the time they are received by us until the time they are sent to you, the beans are stored between 45 and 48 degrees Fahrenheit. When stored in a cool dark environment, jumping beans remain dormant, but they cannot survive freezing temperatures and will die, so be careful not let yours get too cold. When the beans are exposed to sunlight or warmth, such as the warmth from your hand, they will begin to “jump” or move around.

Once every four to five weeks, the jumping beans should be soaked (do not submerge) with de-chlorinated (bottled or distilled) water for approximately 4 to 6 hours. Chlorinated tap water will kill them. It would be a good idea for you to hydrate your beans as soon as you get them. When not playing with your jumping beans or when you would like them to remain quiet, they can be stored in the butter compartment of your refrigerator. There they will remain dormant and quiet.



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### **For More Information on Jumping Beans:**

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