How many soybeans are in a bushel?

A math activity for grades 3–8. You need: dry soybeans, a kitchen scale, a calculator.

1. Weigh out exactly 1 ounce of dry soybeans on a kitchen scale. Count them.

Seeds in 1 ounce = _____

2. There are 16 ounces in a pound. Multiply to estimate the seeds in 1 pound.

_____ × 16 = _____ seeds per pound

3. A bushel of soybeans weighs 60 pounds. Estimate the seeds in 1 bushel.

_____ × 60 = _____ seeds per bushel

4. Many farmers plant about 140,000 seeds on one acre. About how many acres could your bushel plant?

_____ ÷ 140,000 = _____ acres

5. USDA forecasts U.S. farms will average 53.3 bushels per acre in 2026. About how many seeds does one acre produce?

53.3 × _____ = _____ seeds

6. Compare: how many seeds come back for every seed planted?

Seeds harvested ÷ 140,000 = _____

Seed size varies by variety, so every class gets a slightly different answer. Compare your estimate with another group. Source for the yield forecast: USDA WASDE, November 2026.

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