

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION OF PEAS

No one knows for sure how many pea plants Mendel grew (28,000 by some accounts), or how many peas he sorted (some estimates go as high as 300,000). By his own count he “carefully studied” more than 10,000 plants (probably closer to 13,000). These studies of numerous peas helped Mendel devise his genetic theories, eventually making him the founder of modern genetic science. This illustration of peas from the catalogue of Ernst Benary (one of Mendel’s seed suppliers) shows some of the traits that Mendel studied. More than 100 artifacts and specimens, along with videos and hands-on interactives, document the life and work of Gregor Mendel and the rise of modern genetics in the exhibition *Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics*, at The Field Museum from September 15, 2006 to April 1, 2007. For more information, call (312) 922-9410 or visit www.fieldmuseum.org.

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