

HOW DO PLANTS GROW?

What a Plant Needs to Grow

Plants need many essential things in order to grow, such as: water, air, nutrients, sunlight, and warm temperature. Plants need their space too! If a plant grows too close to other plants, it may not grow healthy and strong, because the plants may compete over the available water, nutrients, and space in the soil for their roots to grow.



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what does a plant need to grow?

While a plant needs the essential things in order to grow, if they get TOO much of a good thing, they can die. For instance, if a plant gets too much water, it can die.

In the beginning...

Most plants begin as a seed. A seed is a tiny plant, an embryo, in a little package.



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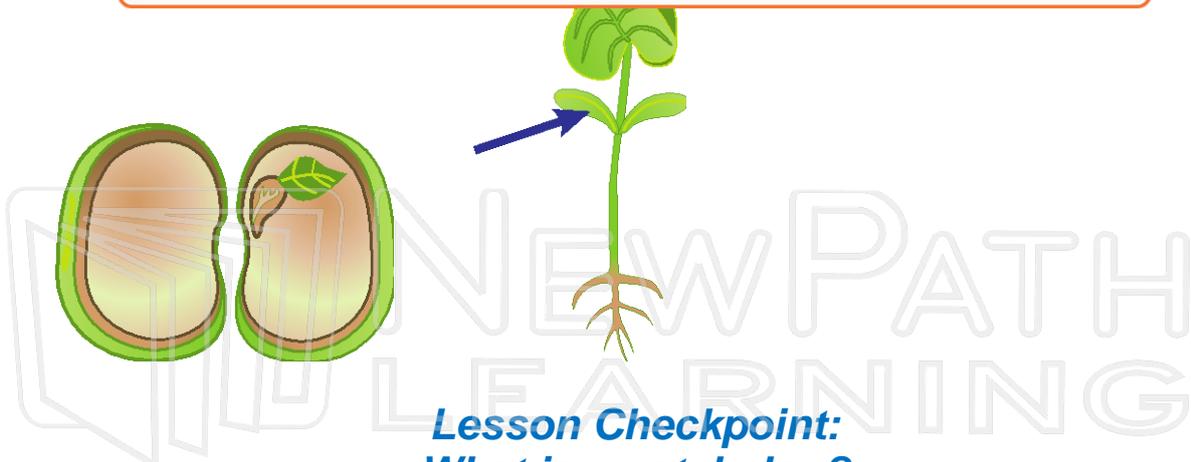


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Lesson Checkpoint:
What is a cotyledon?

The seeds of a plant contain everything it needs to form the leaves, the stem, and the roots of a plant. Seeds also contain a food supply which is used to help the new plant grow and develop.

A seed stays inactive and doesn't start growing until the conditions surrounding it are just right for it to start growing. Seeds get to other places by the wind, water, animals, and even people.

Seeds are also found in the **pod** of a plant. A pod is a fruit that when ripe is dry and opens to release its seeds. Some pods contain few seeds while others contain many seeds.

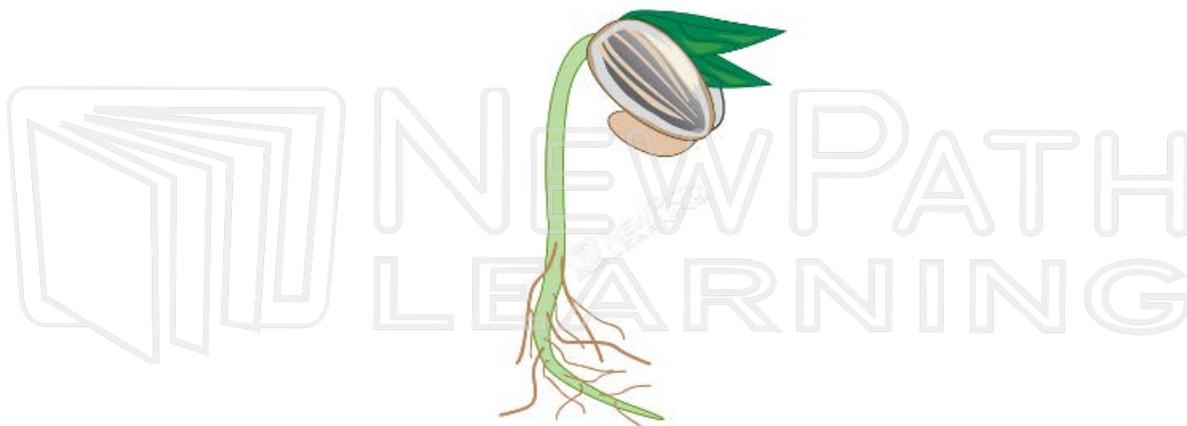
Seeds can be found in the fruit of a plant or tree too.

A row of ten diverse children standing on a green patch of grass. Above them are four thought bubbles containing various educational icons: a cube, a microscope, a protractor, a globe, a red flask, a pencil, a DNA helix, a pie chart, a bar graph, a calculator, and the letters 'ABC' on a book.

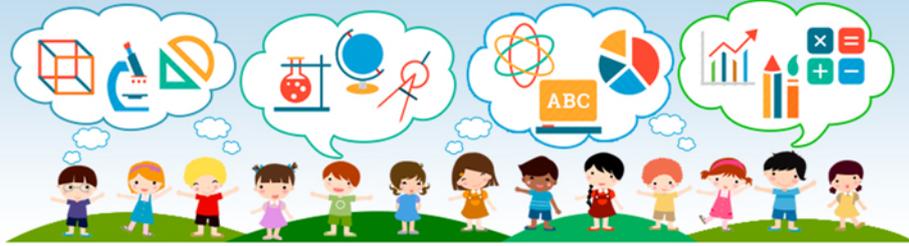
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Germinates and a seedling grows above soil.



A **seedling** is a young plant that is in its early stages of growth.

A row of colorful icons representing various subjects: a cube, a microscope, a protractor, a globe, a chemistry flask, a globe, a pencil, a bar chart, a pie chart, a bar chart, a bar chart, and a bar chart. Below the icons is a row of ten diverse cartoon children standing on a green patch of grass. The entire scene is enclosed in a rounded rectangular box with an orange border.

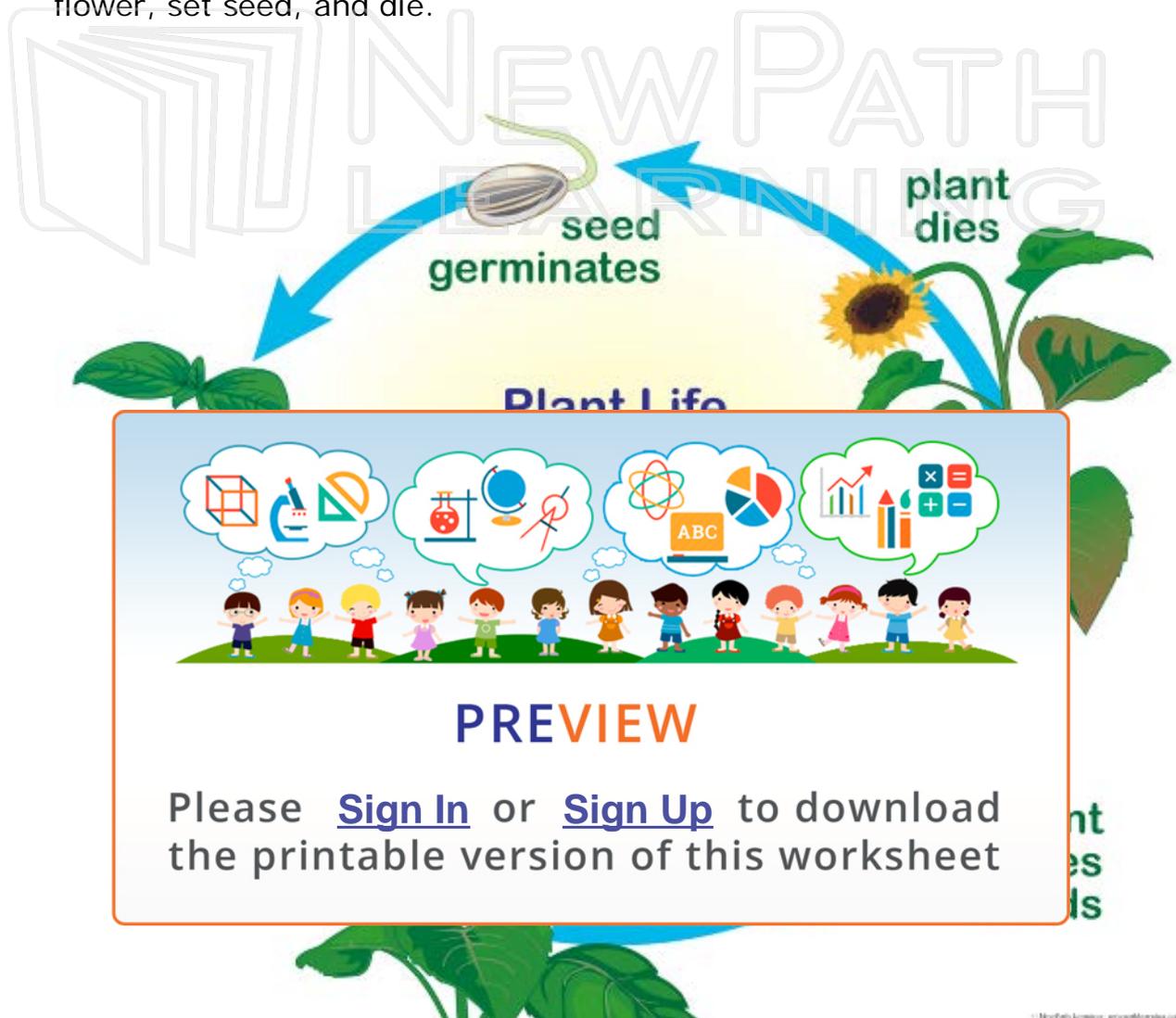
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Plants Have Different Life Cycles

A flowering plant's life cycle describes how long a plant takes to grow, flower, set seed, and die.



Annual plants grow, flower, produce seeds, and die **all in the same year** whereas a perennial plant lives for three or more years.

Seedless Plants

Plants that do not have flowers, such as ferns for example, do not make seeds. They produce spores instead.



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A **bulb** is a special underground stem that is a plant in a small package that contains its own food supply needed for growth.



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Lesson Checkpoint:
What are 4 ways plants develop without seeds?