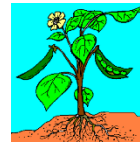


Plant Life Cycle



The Seed

Plants start as seeds. Seeds need to have a safe place to grow. Usually plants need to be buried in soil before they can grow. The seed needs three things to grow into a plant. It needs food, water, and sunlight. At first, a plant has all the food it needs inside the seed. A seed gets minerals and moisture from the soil, and the sunlight warms the seed. Rain waters the seed. When the seed has all of these things, the seed will **germinate**. **Germinate** means that the roots and stem start coming out of the seed.



There are many different kinds of seeds. These are just a few examples: sunflower, corn, bean, and peach seeds.

The Seedling

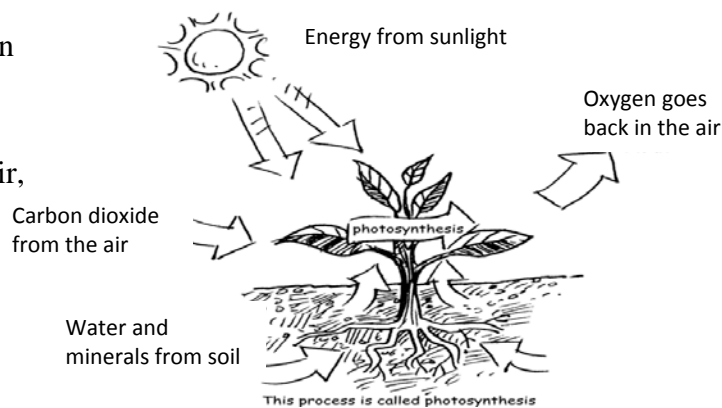
The roots that are growing out of the seed hold on to the soil, and the stem grows longer. Leaves start to grow next. The plant is now called a **seedling**. As the stem and leaves grow bigger, they push up out of the soil. The leaves come from the seed. When the leaves develop, the seed disappears. At this point, the seedling will not be able to get food from the seed anymore.

Roots and a stem grow from the seed. Then the leaves grow. Now the plant is a seedling.



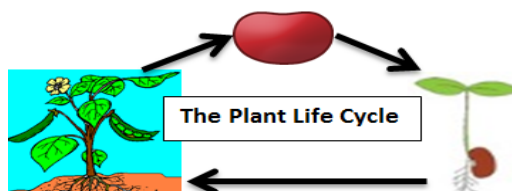
Making Food

Green plants can do something amazing! They can make their own food through a process called **photosynthesis**. **Photosynthesis** means green plants use the chlorophyll in their leaves, carbon dioxide from the air, and sunlight to make their own food. The plant also releases, or puts out, oxygen into the air.



Adult Plant

The seedling will continue to grow. The stem gets longer and the plant will grow a flower at the top. The flower usually has colorful petals. The flower provides nectar for insects and birds to drink. Some animals eat plants. Seeds, or fruit with seeds inside, can also grow from the flower. Seeds can spread when they fall from the flower or when the wind blows. Sometimes animals or birds carry seeds too. If the seeds get buried, another new plant can grow. Then the plant life cycle will start all over again.



Name _____ Date _____

Plant Life Cycle Questions

1. What is the first stage in the plant life cycle? _____

2. What three things does a seed need in order to grow? _____

3. What grows out from the seed first? a. flower b. roots c. leaves d. seeds

4. What is the title of the second heading in this article? _____

5. Describe a seedling. _____

6. Plants can make their own food. This process is called _____

7. What is the last stage in the plant life cycle? _____

8. Why are plants important to some insects and animals? _____

9. Use what you read in the “Adult Plant” section and write a reason why this stage is very important in the plant life cycle.

10. Name two ways that seeds can spread. _____

11. Explain how the plant life cycle will start all over again. _____

12. Name the 3 stages of the plant life cycle in order. 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

Name _____ Date _____

Plant Life Cycle Questions – Answer Key

1. What is the first stage in the plant life cycle? _____ **seed** _____

2. What three things does a seed need in order to grow? _____ **food, water, sunlight** _____

3. What grows out from the seed first? a. flower **b. roots** c. leaves d. seeds

4. What is the title of the second heading in this article? _____ **The Seedling** _____

5. Describe a seedling. _____ **These are acceptable: It has roots, a stem, and leaves. It pops out of the soil.** _____
_____ **It makes its own food** _____

6. Plants can make their own food. This process is called _____ **photosynthesis** _____

7. What is the last stage in the plant life cycle? _____ **Adult plant** _____

8. Why are plants important to some insects and animals? _____
_____ **insects and birds drink the nectar, some animals eat plants, we eat fruit from plants** _____

9. Use what you read in the “Adult Plant” section and write a reason why this stage is very important in the plant life cycle.

_____ **possible answer: the adult plant produces seeds so a new plant can grow** _____

10. Name two ways that seeds can spread. _____

_____ **possible answers: wind, flower drops them, birds or animals carry them** _____

11. Explain how the plant life cycle will start all over again. _____

_____ **A seed drops to the grow and gets buried and a new plant can grow** _____

12. Name the 3 stages of the plant life cycle in order. 1. _____ **seed** _____

2. _____ **seedling** _____ 3. _____ **adult plant** _____