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How Do Flowering Plants Grow?

Have you ever wondered how plants grow? Then, read on...
This fascinating leaflet will explain how the plant lifecycle works.

The Beginning

Plants begin life as a seed. If the seed has water and warmth, it germinates (starts to grow). First, a root appears, which grows down into the soil. After that, a pale, leafless shoot pushes up towards the light.



a germinating seed



a young seedling a growing plant

Photosynthesis

As soon as the plant's tiny shoot is tall enough, it produces green leaves at the top. These are the factory of the plant that use sunshine and water to create food to build more leaves, the stem and flowers. This is an important process called photosynthesis. Plants couldn't exist without it!

Pollination

Because the flowers' petals are brightly coloured, they attract insects such as bees. Inside each flower, minute grains of pollen are found on short stalks. The bees come to collect this pollen for their food. As they continue from plant to plant, some of it brushes off and falls into other flowers. This is called pollination. As a result, pollen mixes with tiny egg cells and this makes a seed.



a bee collecting pollen from a flowering plant



a seed pod

Seed Dispersal

Once the flower has been pollinated, the coloured petals fall off. Then, the base of the flower starts to swell up into a fruit as the seeds grow.

Eventually, the fruit ripens and the seeds are released. This is called seed dispersal. This means that the whole cycle can begin again as a new plant rapidly starts to grow.



a dried-out seed pod