Name:_____

Plants in Spring: The Great Wake-Up Call

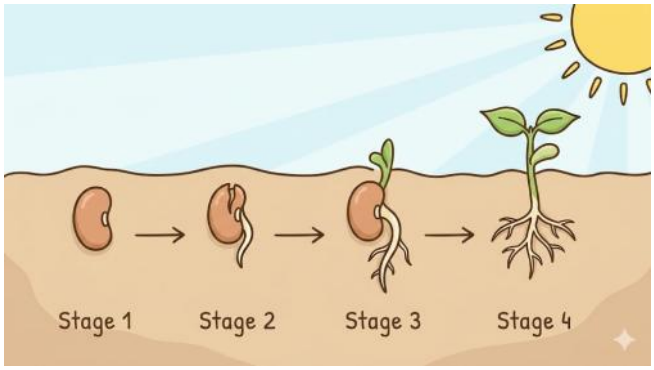
Plants in Spring: The Great Green Wake-Up

Have you ever looked at a garden in the winter and seen nothing but brown sticks and cold dirt? It might look like the plants are gone, but they are actually just waiting! Spring is the season when plants "wake up" and begin a journey of growth.

The Secret Life of Seeds

Many plants start as tiny seeds hiding under the soil. During the winter, these seeds are dormant, which means they are in a deep sleep to stay safe from the ice and snow.

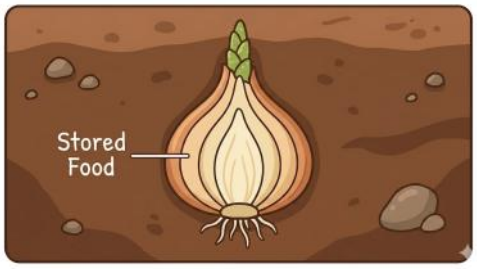
When spring arrives, two important things happen: the sun warms up the soil, and spring showers soak the ground. When a seed gets enough warmth and water, it begins germination. This is when the seed coat pops open, and a tiny root reaches down into the mud while a small green sprout pushes up toward the light.



Stages of germination

Bulbs: The Early Risers

Some flowers, like tulips and daffodils, don't start from seeds every year. They grow from bulbs, which are like underground "suitcases" filled with stored food. Because they already have their energy packed away, bulbs are often the very first flowers to peek through the snow. They use their stored food to grow fast before other plants even start to wake up.



bulb

Making Food from Sunshine

As plants grow bigger leaves, they start a very important job called photosynthesis. This is a big word that describes how plants make their own food.

- They soak up sunlight with their leaves.
- They drink water through their roots.
- They breathe in carbon dioxide from the air.

Using these three things, the plant creates sugar to help it grow taller and grow beautiful, colorful flowers.

Name:_____

Why Flowers Bloom

The main goal of a plant in the spring is to grow a flower. Flowers aren't just pretty to look at; they have a job to do! They use bright colors and sweet smells to attract pollinators like bees and butterflies. These insects help the plant make new seeds so that the cycle of growth can start all over again next year.

1. What is the main idea of the section titled "The Secret Life of Seeds"?

A) Seeds are the most important part of a garden.

B) Seeds stay dormant in winter and begin germination when it gets warm and wet.

C) Winter is too cold for any plants to survive underground.

D) Spring rain is more important for seeds than the warmth of the sun.

2. Based on the passage, what can you conclude about why bulbs are often the first flowers to bloom?

A) They have energy already stored inside them to use immediately.

B) They don't need any water to start growing.

C) They are the only plants that like cold weather.

D) They are stronger than seeds and can push through ice easier.

3. Which word from the text describes a plant that is in a "deep sleep" and not growing?

A) Germination

B) Photosynthesis

C) Dormant

D) Pollination

4. What is the relationship between photosynthesis and a plant's leaves?

A) Leaves are only used to make the plant look pretty for butterflies.

B) Leaves are where the plant breathes out carbon dioxide.

C) Leaves are the tools the plant uses to soak up sunlight to make food.

D) Leaves protect the seeds from being eaten by pollinators.

Name:_____

5. What would most likely happen to a seed if it was planted in very cold, dry soil during the spring?

A) It would start photosynthesis immediately.

B) It would stay dormant and wait for warmth and water.

C) It would grow into a bulb to store food.

D) It would sprout faster because it doesn't like the sun.

6. What is the primary purpose of a flower blooming, according to the text?

A) To keep the plant warm during spring rain showers.

B) To attract pollinators so the plant can make new seeds.

C) To hide the seeds from animals that might eat them.

D) To soak up more carbon dioxide than the leaves can.

7. Which of the following is a fact about photosynthesis mentioned in the passage?

A) Photosynthesis only happens in the roots of the plant.

B) Plants need oxygen from the air to make their food.

C) Plants use sugar to create sunlight.

D) Plants combine sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to grow.

8. The author compares a bulb to a "suitcase." How does this help the reader?

A) It shows that bulbs travel from place to place in the spring.

B) It helps the reader imagine the bulb holding everything the plant needs to start growing.

C) It explains that bulbs are very heavy and hard to move.

D) It means the plant is planning to leave the garden.

9. If pollinators like bees disappeared, what would be the most likely result for the plants?

A) The plants would grow much taller and have more leaves.

B) The plants would stop drinking water through their roots.

C) The plants would grow flowers that smell like old socks.

D) The plants would have a hard time making new seeds for next year.

The "Seed Race" (STEM Experiment)

Goal: Observe germination and predict plant growth.

The Setup: Give each student two clear plastic baggies with a damp paper towel inside. Have them put one "fast-growing" seed (like a bean) in each.

The Variable: Place one bag in a sunny window and the other in a dark closet.

The Activity: Students keep a "Seed Journal" for one week. They predict which will sprout first and use a ruler to measure the height of the sprouts.

Discussion: Connect this back to the passage—did the sun act as the "wake-up call"?