

The Plant Life Cycle



Vocabulary Words

Life Cycle Germination Seedling Mature Plant

A plant goes through several different stages before it is fully grown. These stages are known as a **life cycle**, which means they continue to happen in the same order over and over again.

All plants begin as seeds. You can purchase seeds at the store to grow in your garden but you can also find seeds in nature. The outer layer of a seed is known as the coat of the seed. The coat protects the baby plant that is inside.

We plant seeds into soil and give them plenty of water and oxygen so that the seed will begin to sprout. This time in the seeds life is known as **germination**. The seed sprout will begin to grow in the direction of the sun light until a tiny stem and leaves begin to poke through the surface of the soil. Once the sprout has broken through the soil, the germination stage has come to an end.

Roots also begin to emerge from the seed underground. At this stage in the plants life, we call it a **seedling**. A seedling is like a young child. If the seedling receives enough sunlight and water it will continue to grow into a strong and healthy plant. New larger leaves will begin to grow on the stem and the plant will become taller over time. When a plant is done growing and has reached its full height we call it a **mature plant**. Flowers will begin to open and new seeds can be born inside of the flowers, allowing the cycle to begin again.

After germination, what does a seed need to continue to grow?
