



ROYAL  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS

# GARDENING ACTIVITIES



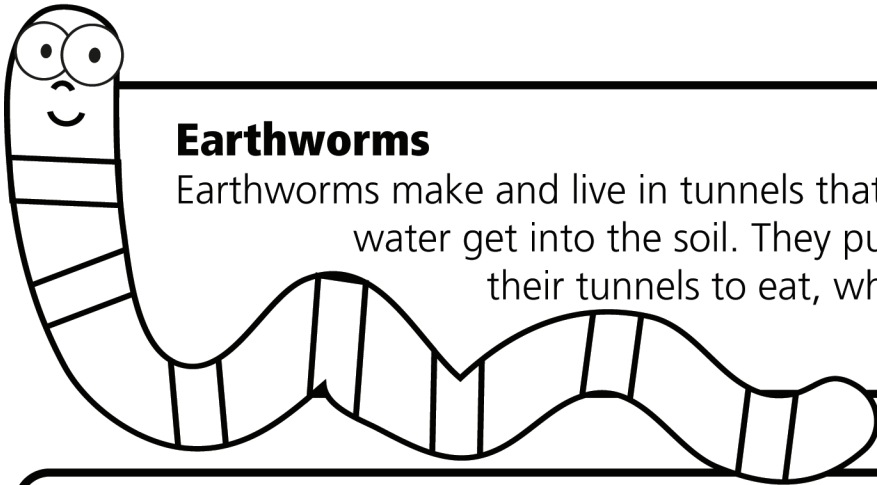
These activity sheets belong to:

A blank rectangular box with a dashed line border, intended for a name or label.



# Soil—It's Alive!

Soil is alive with creatures that help keep the soil healthy. A handful of healthy soil is home to billions of tiny living things that help make the soil fertile.



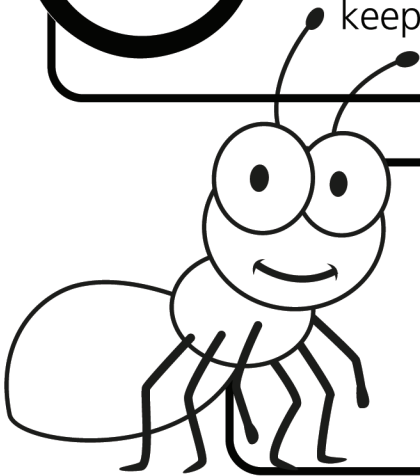
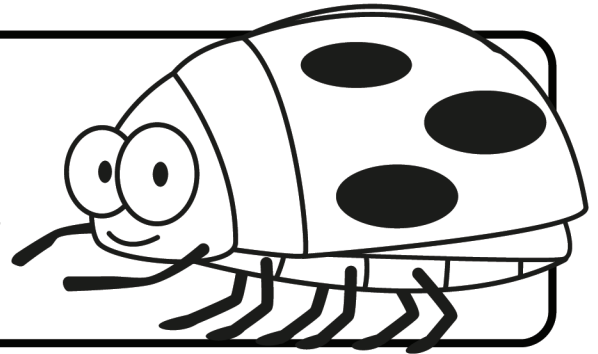
## Earthworms

Earthworms make and live in tunnels that help air and water get into the soil. They pull dead leaves into their tunnels to eat, which feeds the soil.



## Beetles

Some types of beetles are garden pests, but others, like lady beetles, keep pests under control.



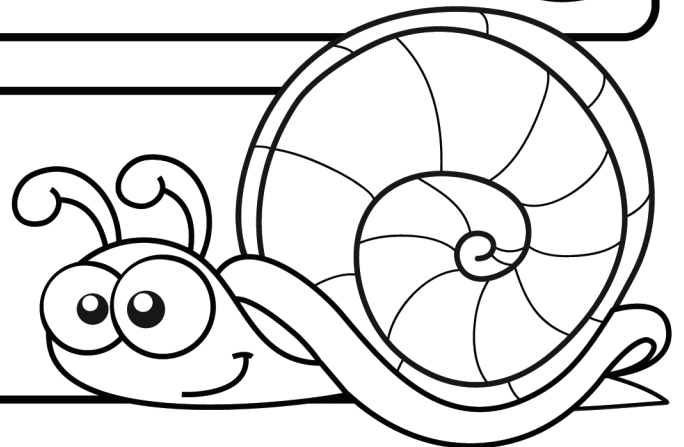
## Ants

Ants feed the soil when they bring food into their underground nests.



## Slugs and Snails

People want slugs and snails to stay away from gardens, because they eat our crops.





# Falling Leaves

Have you noticed how a big pile of leaves will shrink if you leave it alone? That's because bacteria, fungi, and other soil creatures are eating them. They turn the leaves into compost, which is great stuff to add to your soil.

It's easy to make compost. Just make a pile of leaves, grass clippings, and vegetable scraps and let it sit for awhile. The soil creatures will do all the hard work. Make sure mice and other animals can't get at the pile.

Fungi, such as mushrooms, help make food for plants by breaking down dead leaves and plants into tiny pieces. Bacteria also help, though they are so tiny you can't see them without a microscope. All this underground activity keeps soil healthy, and healthy soil grows healthy plants.

**Remember, don't treat your soil like dirt!**

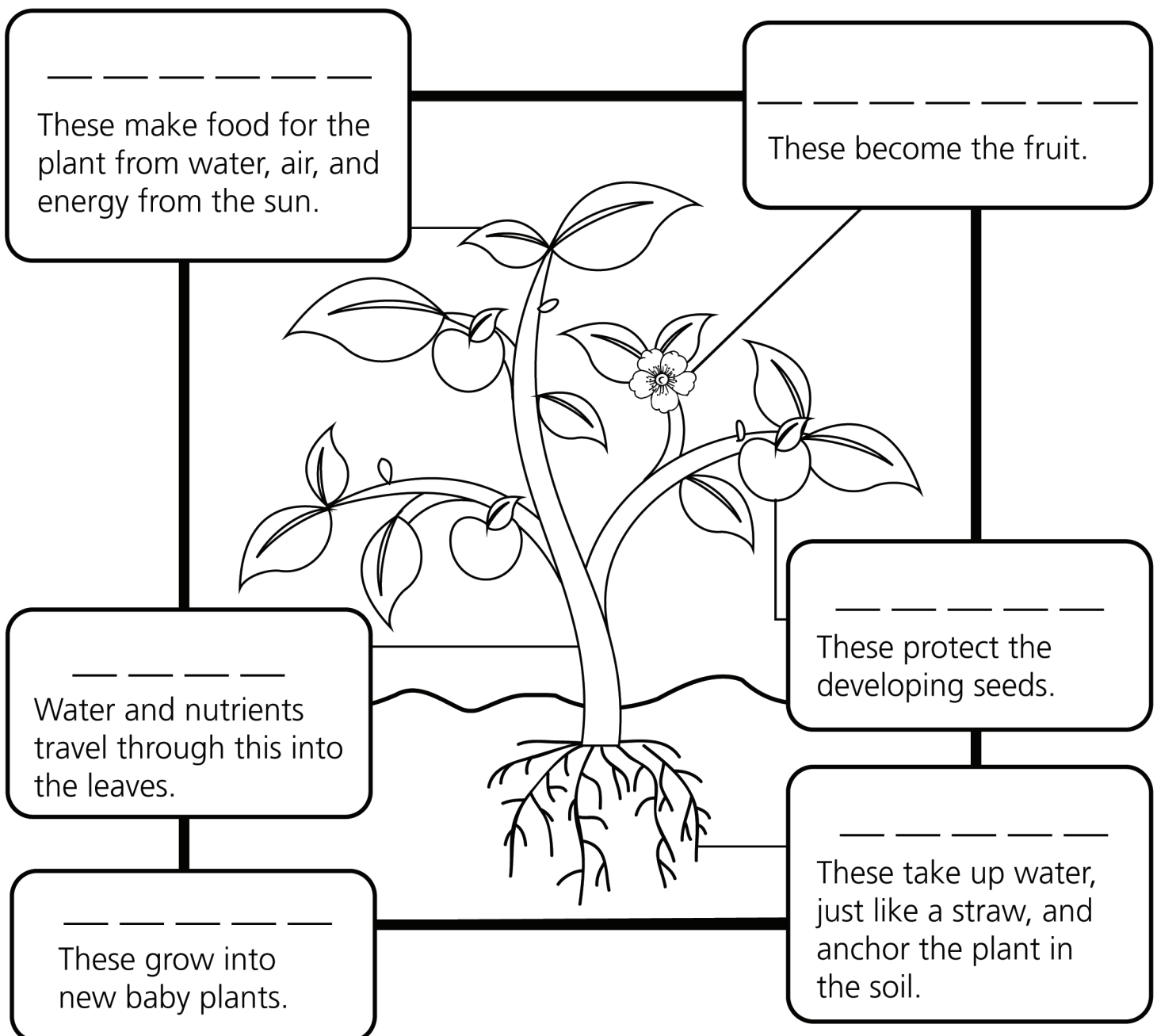




# Plant Parts

When rooted in the right place, plants can meet their needs with air, water, and their surroundings to survive. Using the words in the word bank, label the plant below.

<b>WORD BANK</b>	Leaves	Fruit	Roots
	Flowers	Stem	Seeds





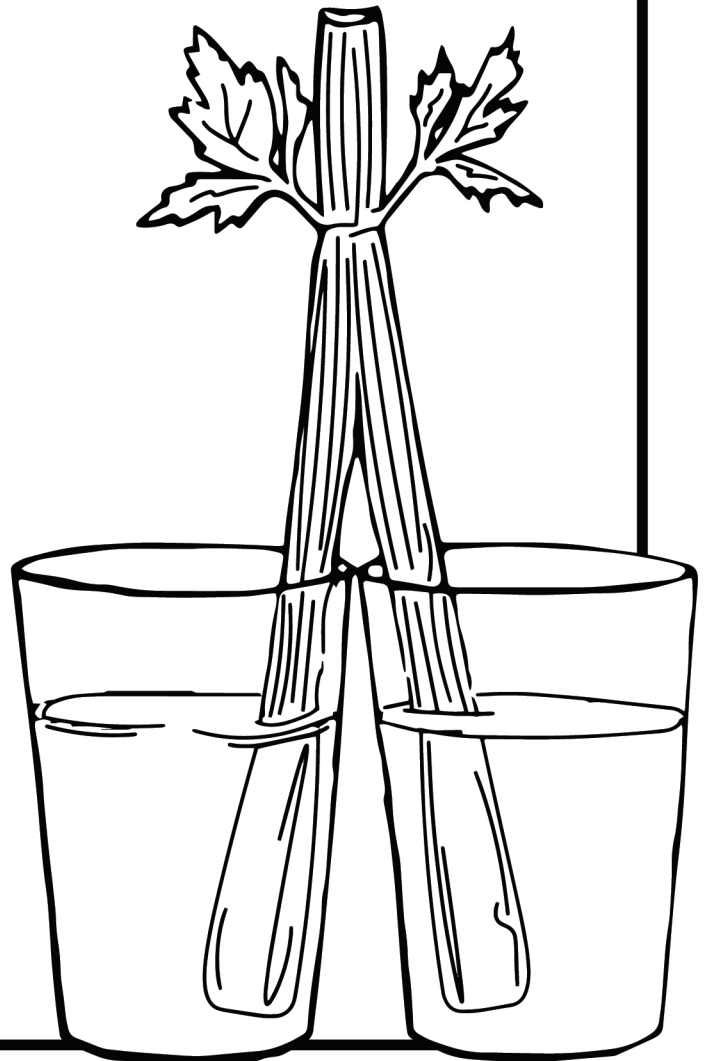
# Celery Experiment

Playing with your food is okay when it's for science! This experiment will demonstrate how plants move water and nutrients up and down, from their roots to their leaves.

## Follow these steps:

1. Fill two glasses with water.
2. Add a few drops of food colouring to each glass. Make sure you pick two different colours.
3. Split a stalk of celery about  $\frac{2}{3}$  the way from the bottom.
4. Place the two sections in the different glasses.
5. Wait a day or so, then write down what happened in the box below.

## Observations:





# Tons of Tools



**ROYAL  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS**

Tools help make gardening easier. Colour in the tools that you think would be helpful in your garden.





# Safety First

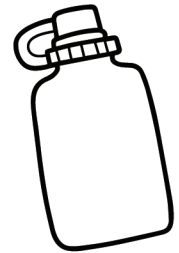
Gardening can be a lot of fun and really rewarding, but we have to make sure we are taking care of ourselves when we are outside and using tools. Connect the object to the reason you should use it to protect yourself.

**To avoid slipping  
or sinking into  
the garden.**

**To protect  
your hands.**

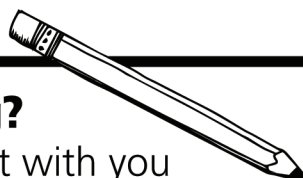
**For protection  
from the hot,  
bright sun.**

**To help you  
stay hydrated.**



**Did we miss anything?**

What else would you want with you  
to protect yourself while in the garden?



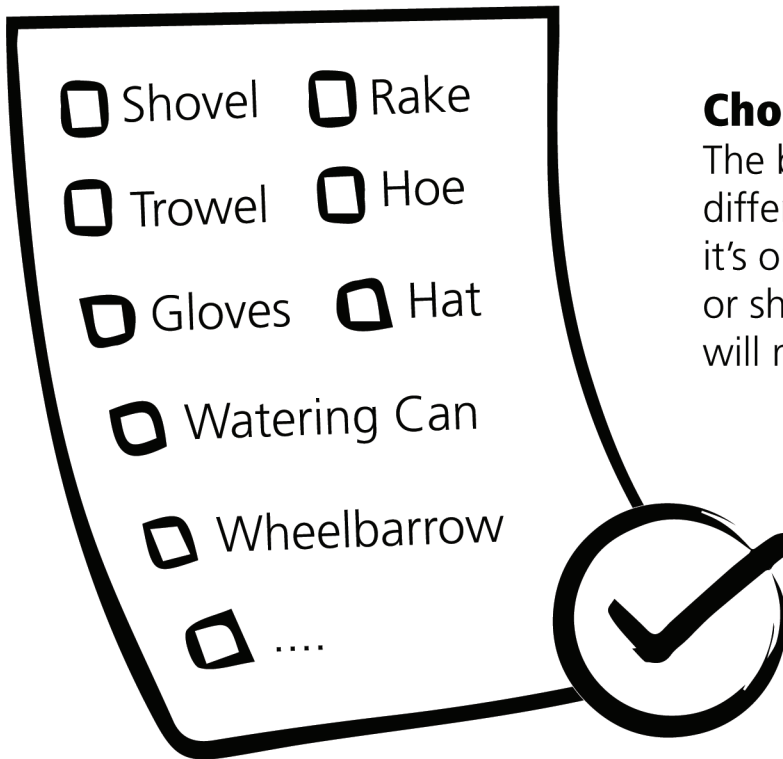


# Ready. Set. Grow!



Now it's time to get your garden growing. Follow the steps and your thumb will turn green in no time! Having a *green thumb* means you are good at growing plants.

## Step 1 - Gather your tools.



### Choosing Your Tools

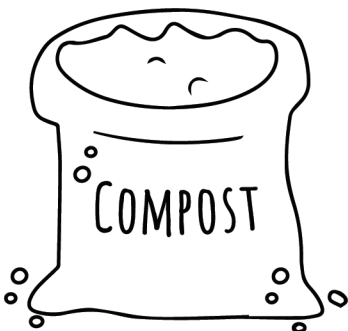
The bigger your garden, the more different tools you will need. Whether it's on a balcony or in a big yard, a trowel or shovel, and water are the basics you will need.

### Tread Carefully

Be sure to walk in the paths not the planting beds, to keep the soil loose.

## Step 2 - Prepare the soil.

Loosen soil with a shovel and spread a 5 to 7 cm layer of compost. Then dig it in a few inches deep. Rake the surface smooth, removing any rocks the size of your fist or bigger.



### Feed Your Soil

The best way to feed plants is by making sure your soil and its residents are well-fed. They like soil that has lots of compost and other organic matter! Feed them and in turn, they'll provide your plants with the nutrients they need.



# Let's Get Planting

## Step 3: Plant Your Seeds

Check each seed packet for directions on how deep to plant the seeds. Dig a shallow trench with your trowel or hand and space the seeds along the row (or poke each seed down into the soil). Cover the seeds with a little soil, and gently pat the soil down over the seeds.



## Step 4: Plant Your Seedlings

If you started seeds indoors or bought plants, here's how to plant them in the garden.

1. Use your trowel to dig a hole the same size as the pot that the plant is growing in.
2. Carefully turn the container upside down, holding the plant between your thumb and fingers while you gently tap the bottom of the pot.
3. Set the plant into the hole, making sure it sits right at the same level in the soil, as it did in the pot.
4. Fill in around the roots, and gently pat the soil down.



## Step 5: Water

When you're through planting, water the garden with a gentle stream from the hose or a watering can.



## Step 5: Ongoing Care and Patience

Keep your eye on your plants and water them regularly. In no time, you'll see the *fruits* of your labour.





# Observation Station

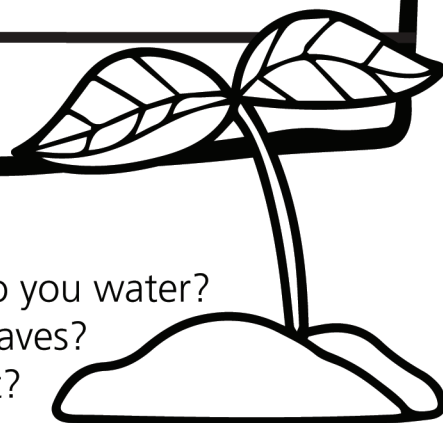


Watch your garden grow! Track the growth of one of your seedlings in this chart.

Week #	Height	Observations
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

## Thoughts to include in your observations:

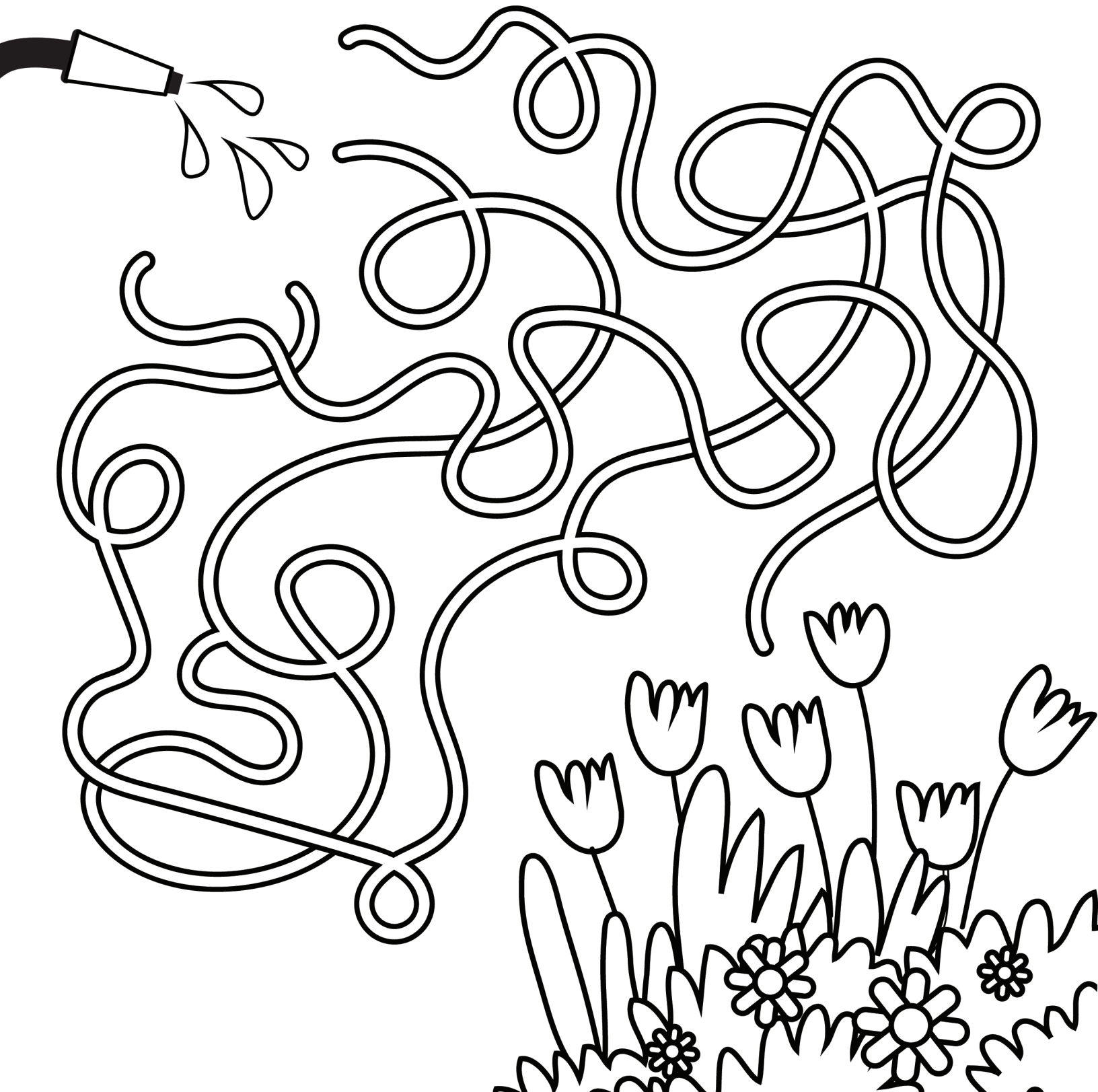
- How many days was it before the first seedling poked through the soil?
- How often do you water?
- What types of insects have you seen?
- How many leaves?
- Is the sun out?





# Got to water!

All plants rely on water to survive. Help water the plants in the garden by following the right path.

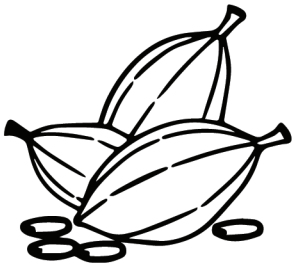




# Food Plants

All fruits and vegetables come from plants, but you might be surprised which plant part some of the foods we commonly eat are from.

## Chocolate



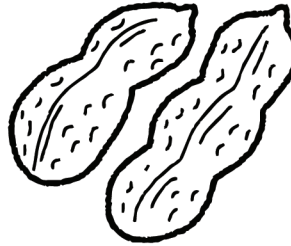
is made from seeds found in pods that grow on the tropical Cacao trees.

## Vanilla



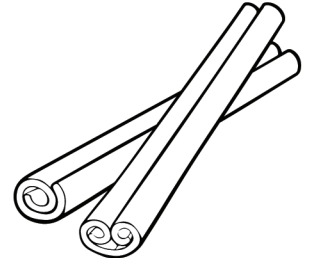
comes from the pod of an orchid plant. It looks a lot like a green bean.

## Peanuts



are grown underground, but they aren't roots, they are fruits!

## Cinnamon



comes from the bark of a tropical tree.

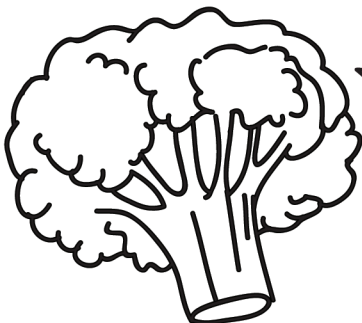
Think about the parts of a plant and what they look like. Draw a line from each food pictured below to its matching plant part.

**Leaves**

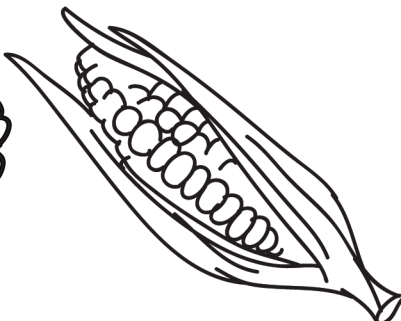
**Roots**

**Unopened  
Flowers**

**Seeds**



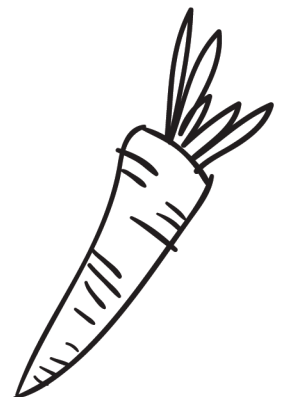
**Broccoli**



**Corn**



**Cabbage**



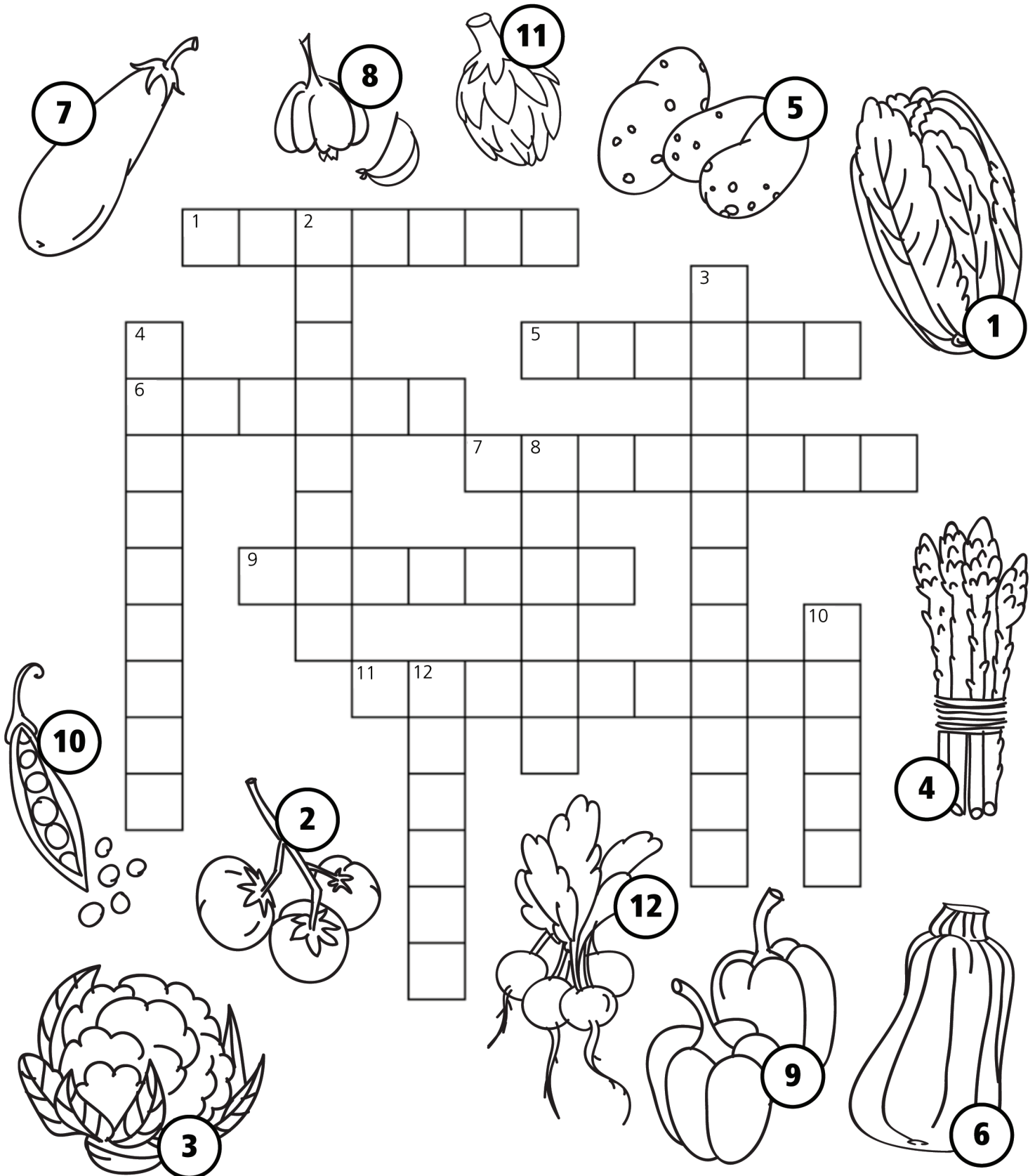
**Carrot**



# Fruit & Veggie Crossword



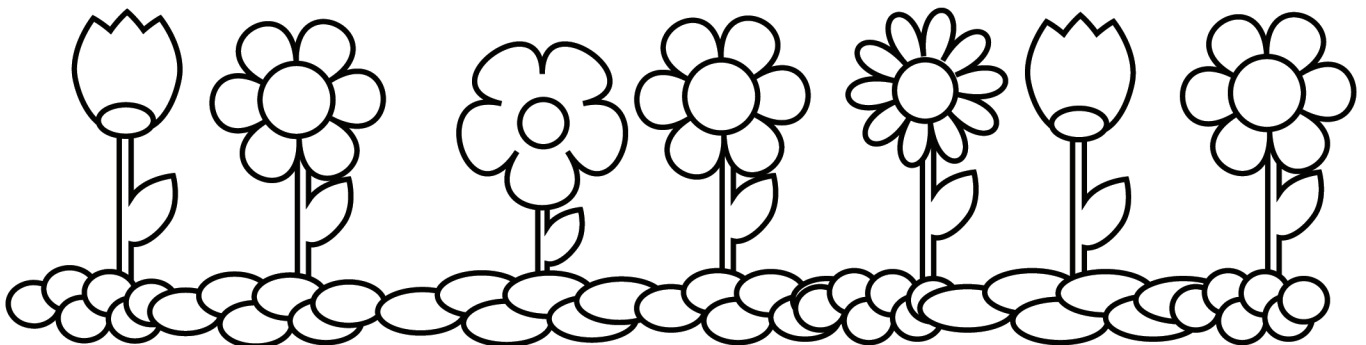
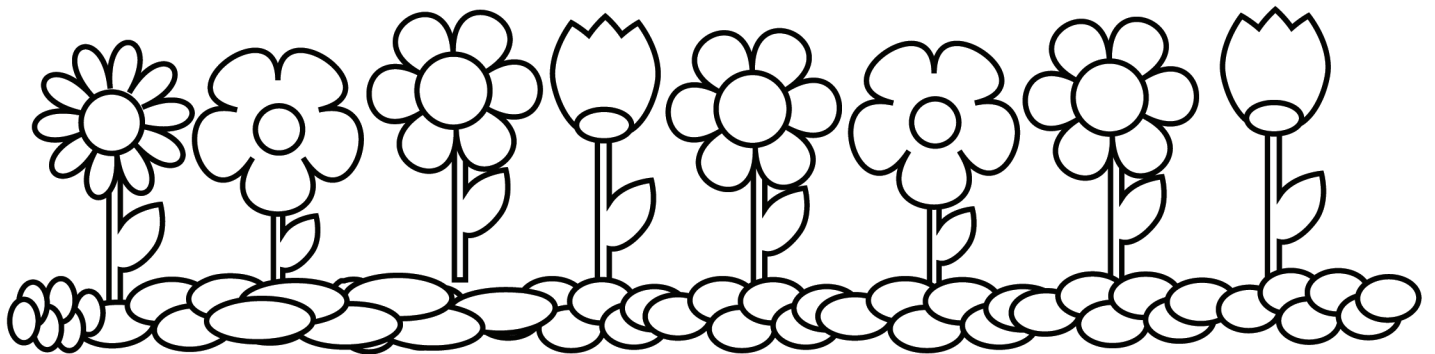
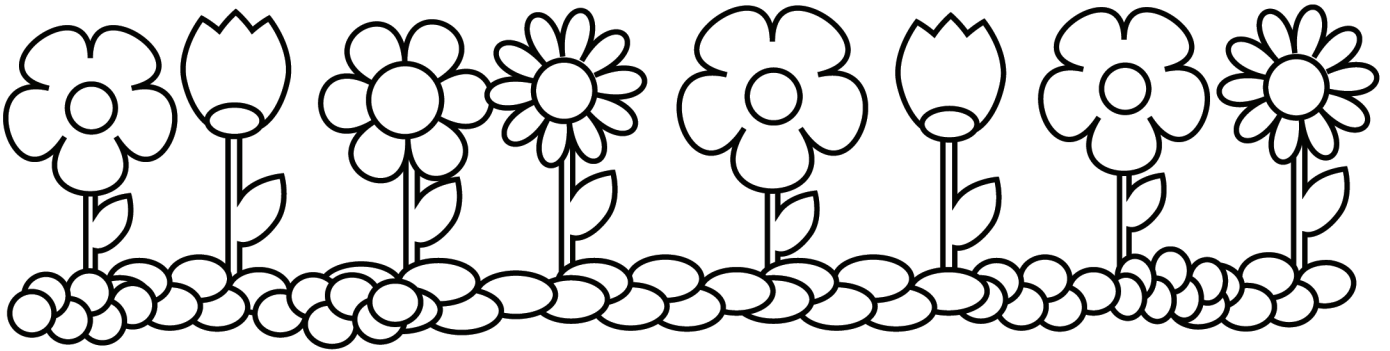
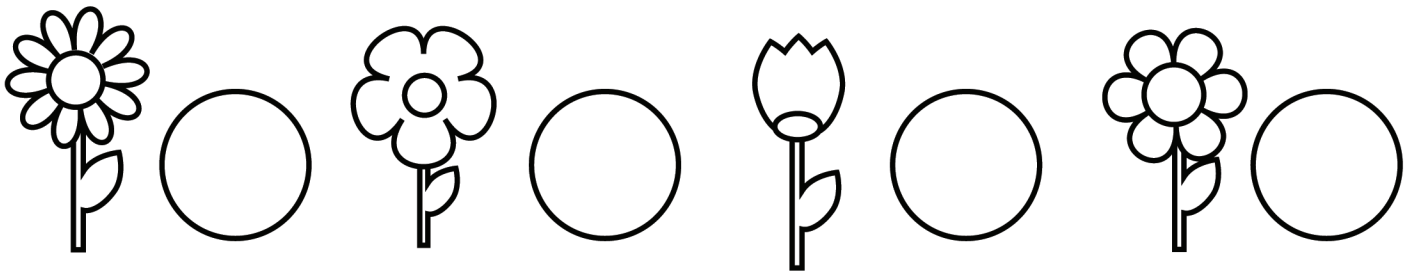
**ROYAL  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS**





# Counting Flowers

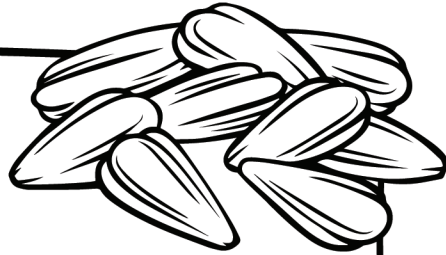
The best gardens have a mixture of different plants. Count the number of each of the four types of flowers below, and write it in the circle.



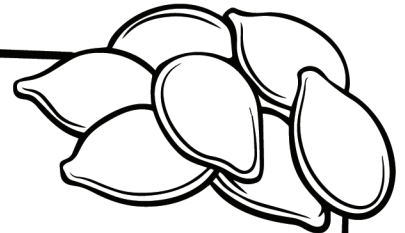


# Sorting Seeds

During the fall harvest, people collect seeds to store over the winter to plant next spring. Some seeds are hard to tell apart. Can you use these clues to identify these seeds? Draw your answers in the boxes below.



These striped seeds come from big yellow flowers. The flowers turn through the day so that they always face the sun.



These seeds are from a squash that is very popular for carving designs into in the fall. They make a yummy snack when roasted in the oven!



These seeds come from the shell of a type of tree nut. They taste great raw or toasted but are also used to make a plant-based milk.



Believe it or not, these small smooth nuts come from a pine cone! They are used to make a yummy green pasta sauce.



# Seed Packet Design



Choose a plant that you're growing in the garden that you'd like to grow again in the future. Decorate the seed packet below. Be sure to include information about these plants that you need to remember!





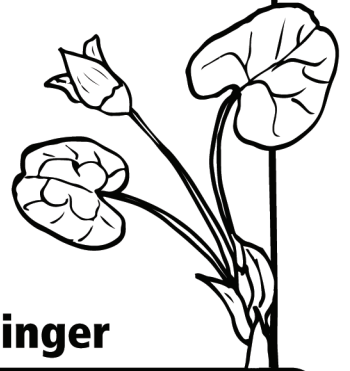
# Pollination Partners

Flowers and their pollinators depend upon each other. Draw the type of pollinator that is described below for each plant.



**Purple Cone Flower**

This pink flower has the perfect platform for me to rest my large patterned wings and enjoy some sweet nectar.



**Canadian Wild Ginger**

My body is flat and oval so I need a bowl-shaped flower that I can crawl right into. I look for dark red and brown flowers that smell like rotting meat.



**Cardinal Flower**

This red flower has a long tube to match my long beak. The tube contains the nectar I love to sip.



**Canada Goldenrod**

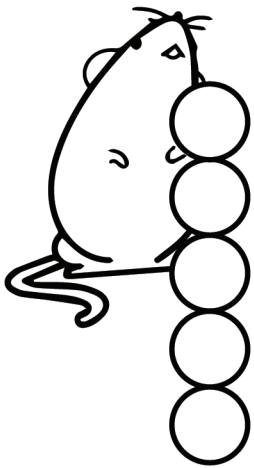
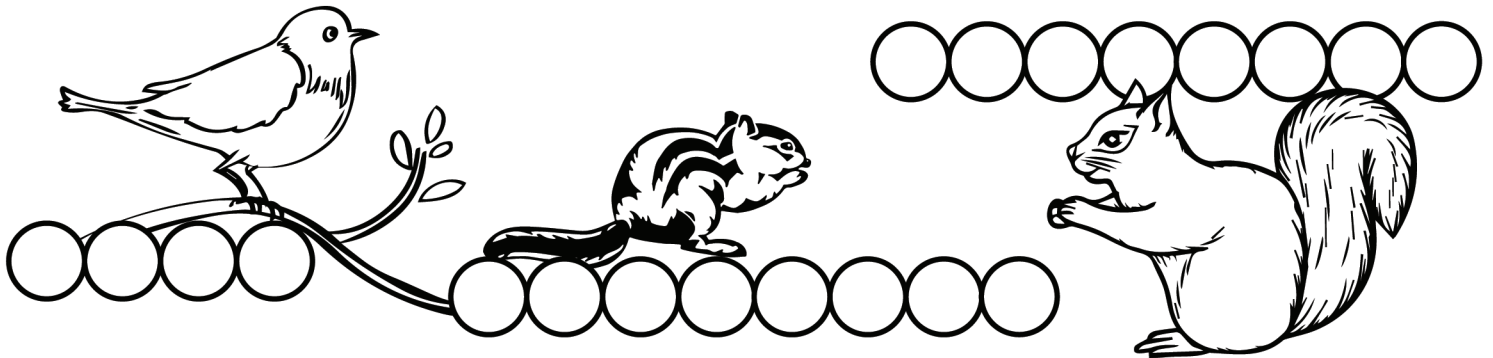
Each fall, these bright yellow flowers produce lots of nectar that my family uses to make honey. People think these make them sneeze, but that's not true!



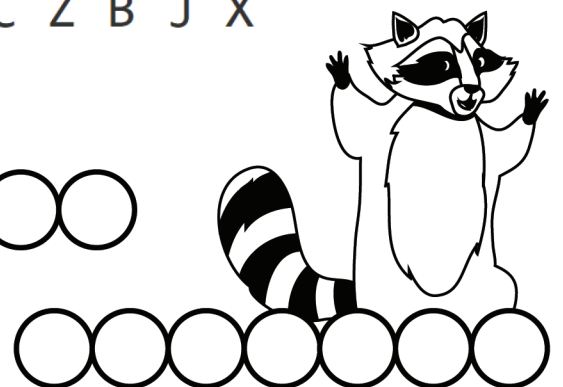
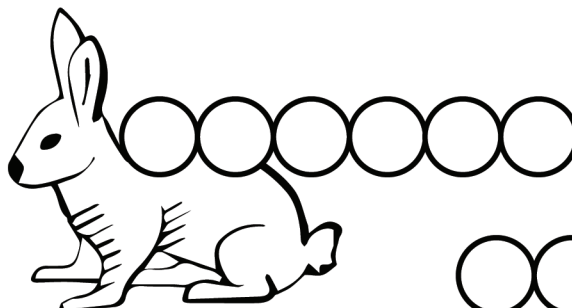
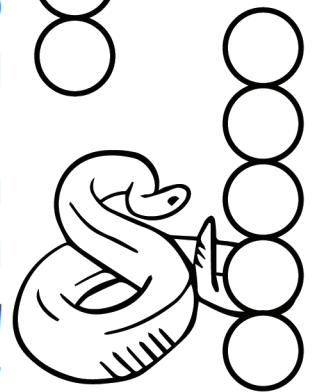
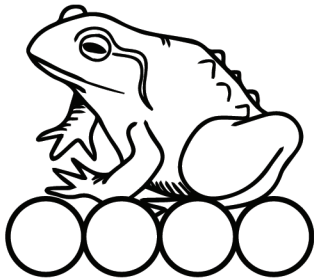
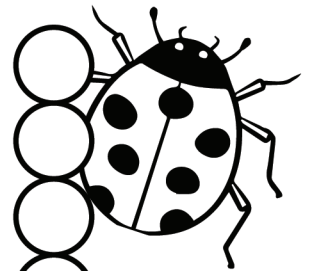
# Animal Visitors in the Garden



ROYAL  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS



G	J	Q	B	J	D	M	G	V	R	F	O	T	R	B
O	J	F	B	N	C	G	I	B	C	R	C	A	T	D
V	Y	I	X	D	R	X	M	R	K	L	E	J	C	L
K	R	I	O	J	W	K	N	O	R	K	G	H	H	D
D	N	I	J	J	Y	O	X	T	U	F	A	H	C	W
F	R	U	K	U	O	D	S	Z	M	S	U	O	U	B
B	V	T	M	C	X	R	N	X	Y	G	E	E	H	T
O	K	H	C	P	U	M	A	G	U	V	G	B	P	D
J	B	A	S	F	I	W	K	U	D	I	X	S	I	H
H	R	X	X	J	Q	H	E	B	J	A	H	Z	V	E
Z	X	I	T	E	T	T	C	Y	F	F	O	Y	O	U
R	A	B	B	I	T	T	S	D	H	S	R	T	U	U
L	E	R	R	I	U	Q	S	A	G	Y	O	X	V	W
O	E	O	J	Z	Y	E	B	L	R	E	E	D	T	T
W	T	J	W	R	A	Q	D	Y	L	C	Z	B	J	X





# Magical Garden Guests

Want to add some magic to your garden? Try laying a clay flowerpot on its side, and digging it into the ground 3 or 4 cm to invite magical gnomes and fairies. Maybe a friendly toad will visit too!

