Plant Life Cycle

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Plant life cycle: seed → germination → seedling → adult plant → flower → pollination → fruit with seeds → seed again!

Grow it: put a bean seed in a wet paper towel in a clear bag. Watch it germinate in a few days.

From Seed to Seed

Plants have life cycles too. Let's follow a pumpkin plant.



It begins as a **seed**. Inside the seed is a tiny baby plant and stored food. When the seed gets water and warmth in the soil, it begins to grow. This is called **germination**.

A small root pushes down and a tiny shoot pushes up. The young plant is called a **seedling**. With sunlight, water and nutrients, it grows into an **adult plant** with long vines and big leaves.

The adult plant grows **flowers**. Bees carry pollen from flower to flower. This is called **pollination**. Then each pollinated flower grows into a pumpkin **fruit** full of new seeds. Plant those seeds, and the cycle begins again!

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is germination?

(a) When a seed begins to grow (b) When a plant dies (c) When fruit is picked

2. What is a young plant called?

(a) A fruit (b) A seedling (c) A pollinator

3. How do bees help plants?

(a) They eat the roots. (b) They water the soil.
(c) They carry pollen between flowers.

4. What grows from a pollinated pumpkin flower?

(a) A pumpkin full of seeds (b) A new root (c) A bee

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2. Before or after flowers?

Does each stage happen before or after the plant flowers?

1	germination	before flowers	after flowers
2	fruit grows	before flowers	after flowers
3	seedling	before flowers	after flowers
4	new seeds form	before flowers	after flowers
5	first leaves appear	before flowers	after flowers
6	pollination	before flowers	after flowers

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **Put these stages in order: adult plant, seed, seedling, fruit with seeds.**

Answer Key

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3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **Put these stages in order: adult plant, seed, seedling, fruit with seeds.**
   Seed, seedling, adult plant, fruit with seeds.