



Plants Lessons

Websites

[What is a Flower?](#)

Produced by an elementary classroom on the ThinkQuest web site, this link to “What is a Flower?” provides clear drawings and child-friendly cartoons that illustrate some basic topics about flowers.

(<http://library.thinkquest.org/3715/flower.html>)

[ARKive Education](#)

ARKive’s free fun-packed teaching resources cover a range of key science and biology subjects including: adaptation, food chains, Darwin and natural selection, classification, identification, conservation and biodiversity.

(<http://www.arkive.org/education/resources>)

[Flower Photos](#)

If you are looking for photos of flowers, visit this web site from the University of Hawaii Botany Department. After you select the name of a plant family, you receive information and thumbnail photo images for all of its members. Click on the thumbnail image, and you will get a beautiful, full-sized photo.

(<http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/carr/fpfamilies.htm>)

[Kid’s Valley Garden](#)

This link provides information on planning a garden, when to plant seeds, how to keep plants healthy, how to enter flowers into competitions, and much more. It is a visually appealing site with lots of useful information.

(<http://www.typodermic.com/garden/>)

[Life Cycles of Plants](#)

The Missouri Botanical Garden offers a kid-friendly web site that focuses on the life cycles of plants. It includes full color photos and drawings that illustrate the parts of a flower, descriptions of how bees pollinate flowers, and lyrics to a song, “How Do Plants Pollinate,” sung to the tune of “This Land is Your Land.” (Print the words, and sing it with your class!)

(<http://www.mbgnet.net/bioplants/>)



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Books

The Carrot Seed

By Ruth Krauss; illustrated by Crockett Johnson.

(2004, HarpersCollins)

A classic and brief story in which a young boy plants a carrot seed that everyone says will not grow. He carefully tends the seed and eventually harvests a carrot whose size is in direct proportion to his unflappable faith in it.

Dandelion Adventures

By L. Patricia Kate; illustrated by Anca Hariton. (1998, The Millbrook Press)

An illustrated story about seven dandelion seeds that parachute through the air when the wind blows. Where will each seed land?

Flowers (Eyewitness Explorers)

By David Burnie. (1996, Dorling Kindersley Publishers Ltd.)

Describes the physical characteristics and life cycles of flowers and examines different kinds of garden flowers, woodland flowers, desert flowers, and others. Offers clear photographs of flowers and their habitats.

From Seed to Plant

By Gail Gibbons. (1993, Holiday House)

Explains that seeds are different shapes, sizes, and colors, and all grow into the same kind of plant that made them. Describes the parts of flowers, and the various ways plants disperse seeds.

From Seed to Sunflower (Lifecycles)

By Gerald Legg; illustrated by Carolyn Scrace. (1998, Children's Press)

Large illustrations and simple text present the life cycle of a sunflower from seed to flower.



How a Plant Grows (Crabapples)

By Bobby Kalman. (1996, Crabtree Pub.)

A clear introduction to the life cycle of plants, illustrated with color photographs. Cross-sectional views show a bean plant's roots developing as its leaves and stems grow above the surface.

How a Seed Grows (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Science 1)

By Helene J. Jordan; illustrated by Loretta Krupinski. (1992, Collins)

Illustrates the simple steps that turn a packet of bean seeds into a garden.

How Seeds Travel

By Cynthia Overbeck. (1990, Lerner Publications)

Describes how seeds are moved from place to place by wind, water, and animals, and how they function in plant reproduction.

I Am a Leaf (Hello Science Reader, Level 1)

By Jean Marzollo. (1999, Cartwheel)

Excellent use of rhyme and repetition that follows the life cycle of a leaf. The text and illustrations make this an excellent book for emergent readers as well as strong readers. Children will develop an appreciation for leaves as indicators of the seasons as well as contributors to nature's beauty.

I'm a Seed (Hello Science Reader, Level 1)

By Jean Marzollo; illustrated by Judith Moffatt. (1996, Cartwheel)

Two newly planted seeds, the first a marigold, the second a mystery seed, discuss the changes that take place as they grow. The second seed delightedly becomes a pumpkin plant with five baby pumpkins.

The Life and Times of the Apple

By Charles Micucci. (1995, Scholastic)

Describes the life cycle of an apple, from seed to tree to flower to fruit. It also incorporates geography, history, science, and math.



The Life and Times of the Peanut

By Charles Micucci. (2000, Sandpiper)

Same as above, but with a peanut. Very informative and fun.

The Magic School Bus Plants Seeds: A Book about How Living Things Grow

By Joanna Cole. (1995, Scholastic)

The class decides to plant a garden, and Ms. Frizzle takes them on a zany trip back to Phoebe's old school where they learn about the life cycle of a plant and how living things grow.

Oh Say Can You Seed: All About Flowering Plants (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library)

By Bonnie Worth; illustrated by Aristides Ruiz. (2001, Random House)

With the able assistance of Thing 1 and Thing 2—and a fleet of Rube Goldberg-like vehicles—the Cat in the Hat examines the various parts of plants, seeds, and flowers; basic photosynthesis and pollination; and seed dispersal.

One Bean

By Anne Rockwell; illustrated by Megan Halsey. (1999, Walker Books)

Beginning with the image of a hand holding a single bean, the story journeys full circle from soaking, planting, and watering, to flowering, harvesting, and eating.

Plants and Flowers (It's Science)

By Sally Hewitt (1999, Children's Press)

Discusses what makes plants grow, the structure of flowering plants, and the way they reproduce. Includes experiments and activities.

The Pumpkin Patch

By Elizabeth King. (1996, Puffin)

Color photos combine with simple, non-scientific text that describes the stages of plowing, planting, cultivating, and harvesting pumpkins.



The Reason for a Flower (World of Nature)

By Ruth Heller. (1999, Puffin)

Brief, rhyming text and lavish, accurate illustrations clearly explain pollination, plant reproduction, and the purpose of a flower.

Seeds Grow (My First Hello Reader)

By Angela Shelf Medearis; illustrated by Jill Dublin. (2000, Cartwheel Books)

“We plant some seeds in the ground. We sprinkle water all around...” Easy rhyming text and colorful artwork capture the process of growing sunflowers.

Stems (Growing Flowers)

By Gail Saunders-Smith (2000, Capstone Press)

Describes the different kinds of roots and stems flowers may have, and their importance in helping flowers grow.

Sunflower House

By Eve Bunting; illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt. (1999, Sandpiper)

A rhyming, first-person tale follows a boy and his two friends as they sow sunflower seeds in a circle, and carefully tend them until they grow into a sunflower house. When summer’s over, and the sunflowers fall, the friends save the seeds to plant next spring.

Taking Root (Rookie Read-About Science)

By Allan Fowler. (2000, Children’s Press)

Describes what roots look like and how they function in plants.

The Tiny Seed

By Eric Carle. (2009, Little Simon)

Dazzlingly colorful collage illustrations and simple but dramatic text tell the story of the life cycle of a flower in terms of a tiny seed.



**Why Do Leaves Change Color? (Let's Read-and-Find-Out
Science, Stage 2)**

By Betsy Maestro. (1994, Collins)

Explains many concepts about leaves in a clear manner and with nice illustrations. Also includes suggestions for activities with leaves.

The Carrot Seed is a story about a little boy who planted a carrot seed and was hoping to see it grow. His family (mother, father, and big brother) did not have faith that the seed would grow into a carrot, so they repeatedly responded to the little boy, "I'm afraid it won't come up." The little boy worked very hard caring for the seed; he watered it and took away the weeds. One day a gigantic carrot popped up in his garden, just like he knew it would. This book authored by Ruth Krauss was published in 1945 and has never gone out-of-print.