



# What Makes a Plant?

Christina Hill



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# Life Cycle

Plants are living things that grow and change over time.

## Grandpa Tree

The oldest tree is over 4,000 years old!



They have **life cycles** (SAHY-kuhlz).

SAMPLE





A plant starts its life cycle as a seed.



The seed needs water, air, soil,  
and sunlight.





First, the seed grows **roots** in the soil,  
or dirt.



The roots help the plant  
**absorb** (ab-SAWRB) water.



This tree has large roots  
which help it get water.

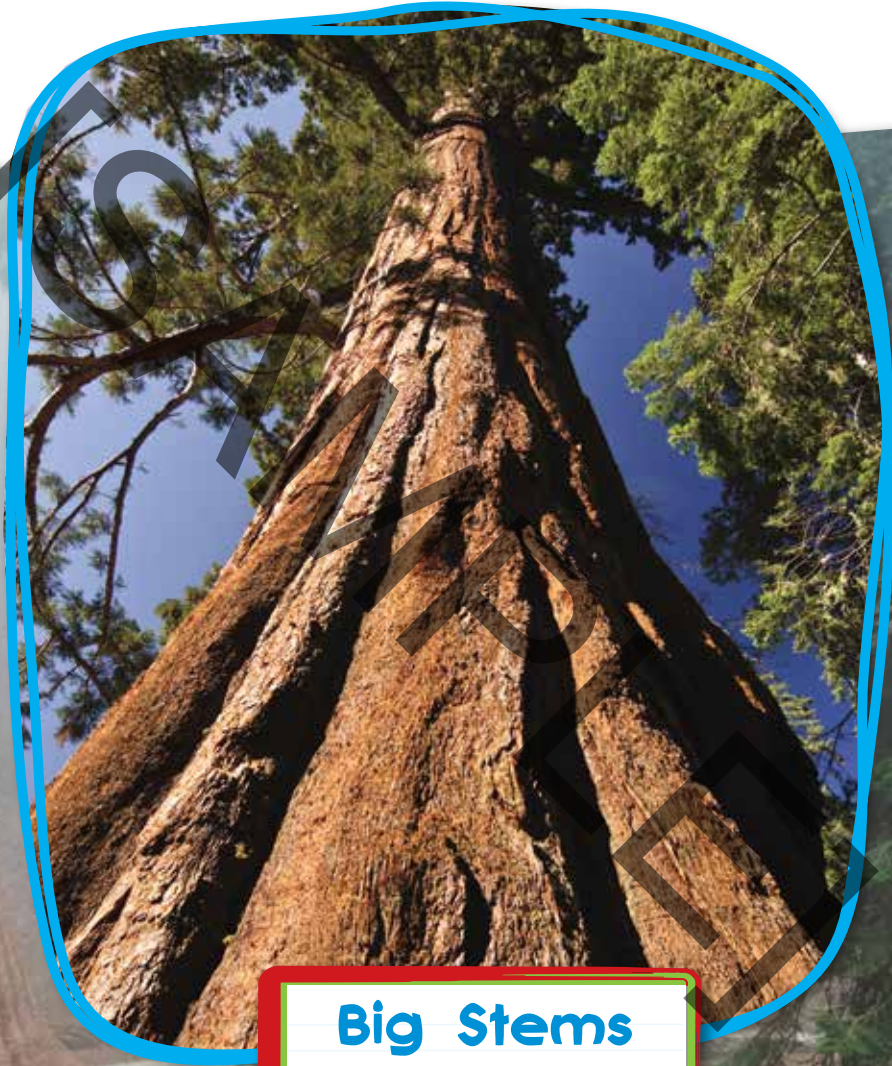


Next, the **stem** grows.

This plant grows roots and then a stem.



It carries water and food through the plant.



## Big Stems

A tree trunk is just a huge stem!



The plant also grows **leaves**. The leaves absorb sunlight.

### Lots of Leaves

There are many different kinds of leaves. They come in lots of shapes and sizes.

Sunlight helps the plant make food.





Some plants grow **flowers**.



This is a yellow dandelion flower.



The flowers make seeds that grow into new plants.

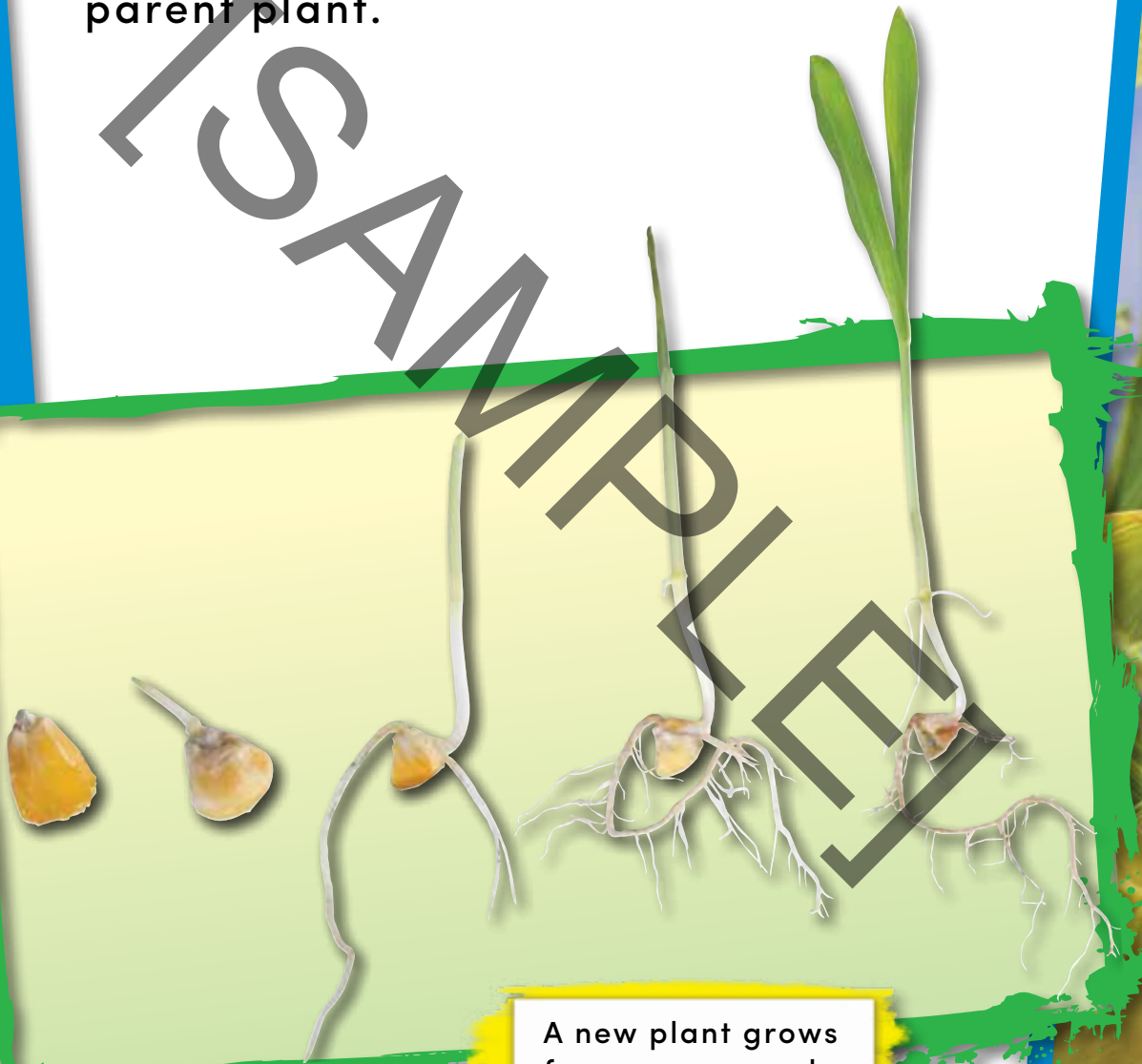


This girl blows dandelion seeds.



# New Plants

The new plant will look like its parent plant.



A new plant grows from a corn seed.



TSAMP



The new plant will grow leaves and seeds, too.

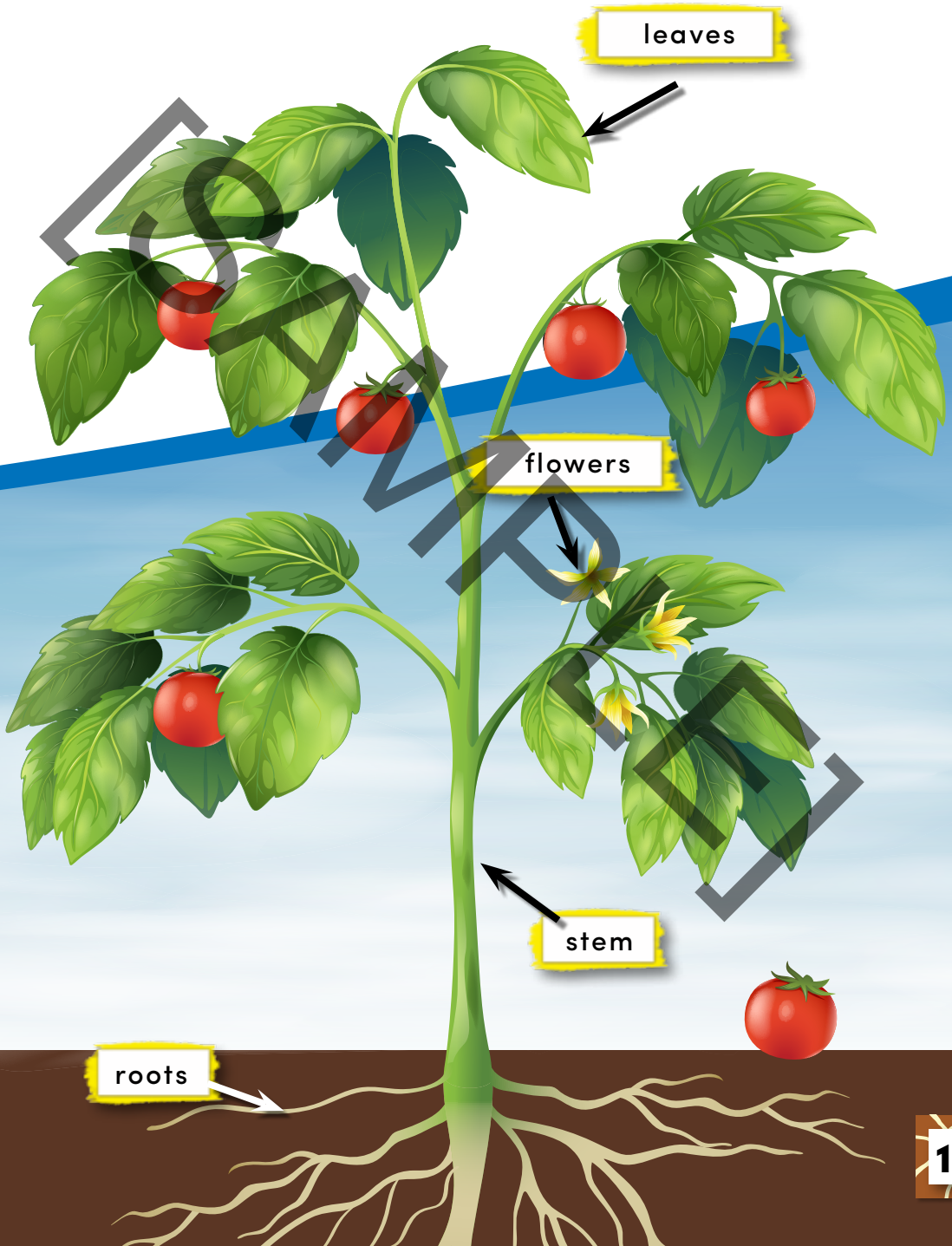
New seeds grow inside these tomatoes.



seeds



The life cycle begins again!



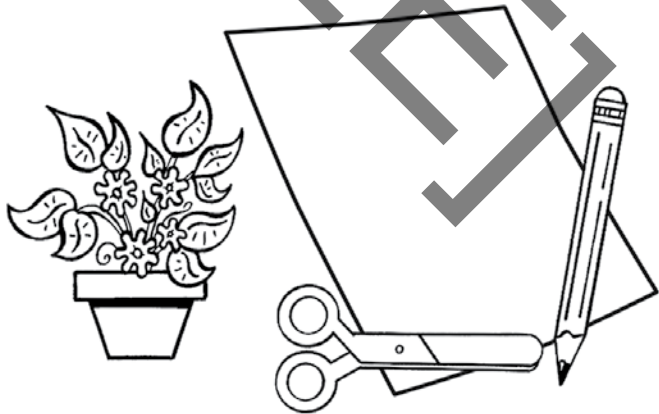


# Let's Do Science!

What are the parts of a plant? Try this and see!

## What to Get

- paper and pencil
- plant (with roots)
- scissors



# What to Do

- 1 Look closely at your plant. What are the different parts?



- 2 Carefully cut apart your plant. Sort the parts.



- 3 Make a chart like this one. Place the parts of the plant on your chart.

A black and white line drawing of a chart with four rows and two columns. The rows are labeled 'leaves', 'stems', 'roots', and 'flowers'. A blue circle with the number '3' is in the top right corner.

leaves	
stems	
roots	
flowers	

- 4 Tell someone how you sorted the plant parts. Talk about what you think each part does.





# Glossary

**absorb**—to take in or drink

**flowers**—the parts of the plant that make seeds

**leaves**—the flat parts of a plant that grow from the stem

**life cycles**—series of stages that living things go through as they grow older

**roots**—the parts of a plant that grow underground and absorb water

**stem**—the part of a plant that holds up the leaves and flowers

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# Your Turn!



## Tasty Plants

We eat many parts of plants. Peas are seeds. Carrots are roots. Lettuce is a leaf. Broccoli is a flower. Make a list of your favorite plants to eat. What part of the plant do they come from?



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children love to learn!**