All About Plants

Looking closely at plants can reveal amazing things!

Search for plants to observe:
- where you live
- in your neighborhood
- at Descanso Gardens

Plants grow and change throughout their lives. Many plants produce flowers, fruit and seeds.

Find a plant to observe. Circle the lifecycle stages above that you find on your plant.

Name: ________________________________
Seed Exploration

Seeds and seed cases come in different shapes and sizes. Look at the pictures of seeds and seed cases below.

What is the same?

Did you know?
Many plants protect their seeds inside a fruit, cone, husk or pod. These are called seed cases. Like a suitcase, they protect and carry the seed.

What is different?

Did you know?
Many plants protect their seeds inside a fruit, cone, husk or pod. These are called seed cases. Like a suitcase, they protect and carry the seed.

Look for seeds around flowers, on ends of stems or on the ground. Draw any seeds you find.

Butterflies: Attracted to brightly colored flowers.

Hummingbirds: Attracted to tube-shaped flowers that match the shape of their long, thin bills.

Bees: Attracted to yellow, blue, and purple flowers shaped like bells or bowls.

Design a flower. Think about color and shape and which pollinator you want to attract. Draw your flower and pollinator below.
Pollinator Search

- Seeds are created when pollen is spread from one flower part to another. This is called pollination.
- Since flowers can’t move, they need help spreading their pollen.
- A pollinator is an insect or animal that helps spread pollen.

Choose a flower to observe.
When you notice a pollinator circle it or add your own.

Plants need help spreading their seeds so that new plants have space to grow.

This is called **seed dispersal**.

- **Wind and water**: Some seeds float in wind or on water.
- **Animals**: Some seeds are eaten by animals and spread in their droppings. Some seeds cling to fur.
- **Explosion**: Some seed cases pop open and fling seeds away.

Draw a line to match the seed to how it might travel.
Have you ever looked inside a flower?

Flowers have many different parts that help them do an important job: make new seeds. Read about these parts and find them on the diagram.

Sepals: Protect the flower before it opens.
Petals: Have bright colors to attract pollinators.
Pistil: The female parts of the flower.
Stigma: The part of a flower that traps pollen.
Style: A tube-like structure where pollen travels to the ovary.
Ovary: Contains the egg cells that will become seeds.
Stamen: The male parts of the flower.
Anther: Contains the pollen, the substance that helps make seeds.

Materials: A flower, scissors, glue or tape

Directions:
- Take time to look at all the parts of your flower.
- Use the diagram on the previous page to help you identify the different parts. Not all flowers will have all parts.
- Carefully cut the different parts of the flower and glue or tape each part in the correct box below.

Petal
Sepal

Pistil
Stamen

Find the stigma, style and ovary.
Find the anther and filament.