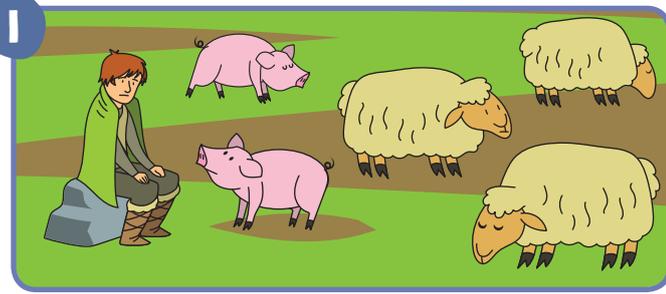


Why is the shamrock a symbol of Ireland?



A. Read the story and illustrate it.

The story of the shamrock starts with the legend of St Patrick.



Long ago, a boy named Patrick lived in Wales. One day he was taken by pirates. They took him to Ireland and sold him as a slave.



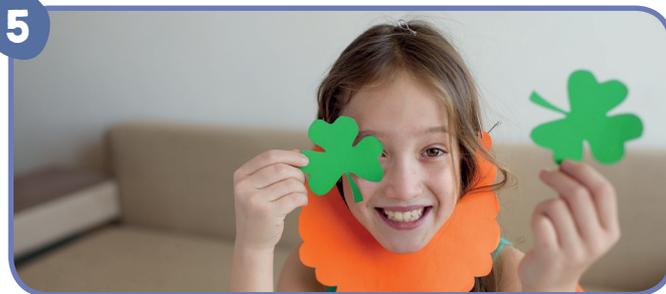
Patrick was sad. He missed his home. One night, he escaped and got a boat back to Wales.



When Patrick was older he became a priest. Voices came to him in a dream one night. They told him to go back to Ireland and teach the people about God.



So Patrick came back to Ireland. He wanted to teach the people about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He used a shamrock because the shamrock leaf has three parts.



Patrick became a patron saint of Ireland. He is celebrated every year on 17th March. Shamrock is a popular St Patrick's Day decoration and has become a symbol of Ireland.

Do you know any other legends about St Patrick?



Can you think of anything Irish that uses a shamrock symbol?





Do plants have special powers?

A. Read these stories about plants and their powers.



Fairy trees

Have you ever seen a tree by itself in the middle of a field? It's a fairy tree. If you damage it you will have bad luck.



Bluebells

Speaking of fairies, if you ring a bluebell it will call them. That might bring bad luck as well.



Dandelions

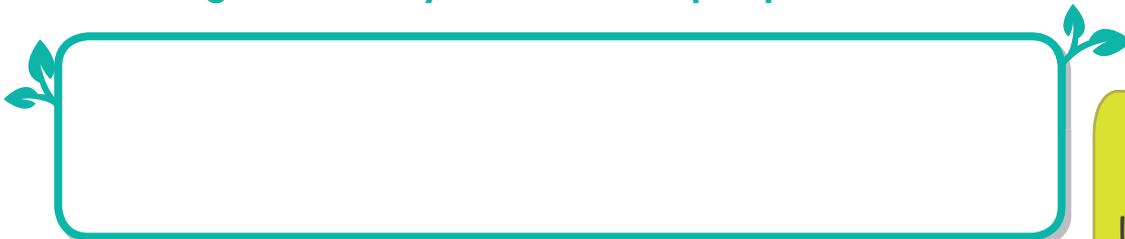
Blow the seeds of a dandelion away and make a wish. You'll be helping nature too by spreading the seeds.



Nettles and dock leaves

Got stung by a nettle? Grab a dock leaf. Hold it on the sting for a few minutes and it will cure you.

B. Make a sign for a fairy tree to warn people not to touch it.



Want to see in the dark? Eat lots of carrots!

What wildflowers grow in Ireland?



A. Read about these Irish wildflowers. Go on a wildflower hunt. Tick the flowers that you see.

These flowers can usually be seen in spring all over Ireland.



daffodil

The Irish word for daffodil is *lus an chromchinn*. It means 'plant of the bowed head'.



daisy

Daisies are one of the most common wildflowers in Ireland. Have you ever made a daisy chain?



primrose

Try to spot these small yellow flowers in damp places like woods and hedges.



wild garlic

Look out for this star-shaped white flower. What do you think it smells like?



dandelion

Dandelions have yellow flowers when they first bloom. Then they turn to white seeds that are blown away by the wind.



gorse

Gorse is a big shrub. You might spot it on grassy hills in the countryside. Be careful – gorse stems are thorny.

There are over 2,000 species of plant in Ireland.



Ask an adult before touching wildflowers. Some are poisonous.



B. Find a wildflower in your local area. Study it and record information about it. If you can't find a wildflower, research one.



Name



Habitat

grass wood coast

water bog town/city

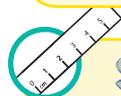


Location

Helpful words: over under beside



Colour and shape of flower



Size

What could you use to measure it?



Smell



Colour and shape of leaves



Minibeasts nearby



Texture (Feel)

How does a sunflower grow?



A. Label the stages in the lifecycle of the sunflower.

roots

seed

shoot

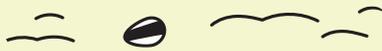
bud

seeds fall

bloom



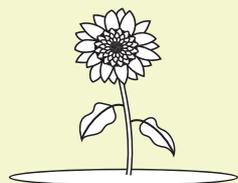
The flower wilts and the seeds fall.



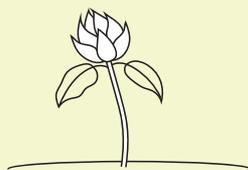
The seed is in the soil.



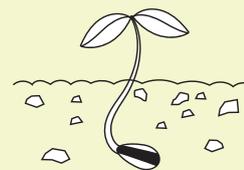
Roots grow from the seed down into the soil to look for water and minerals.



The bud blooms into a flower.



The shoot grows into a stem with leaves and a bud.



A shoot grows up above the soil and reaches for the sun.

B. Fill in the blanks to show how these words relate to each other.

1. Plants _____ have _____ roots.

Helpful words: have need

2. Plants _____ leaves.

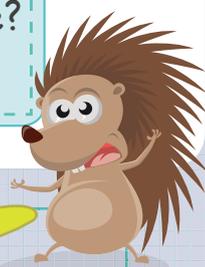
make grow

3. Roots _____ water.

4. Plants _____ light.

5. Flowers _____ seeds.

Do you think all plants have the same life cycle? Why/Why not?



The world record for the tallest sunflower is 9.17 metres.



Investigate: Do plants always grow in a straight line?



You will need:

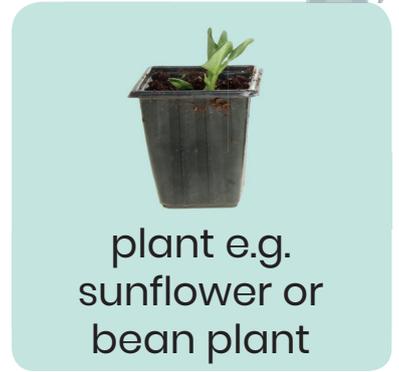
You will need an adult to help you!



shoebox



scissors

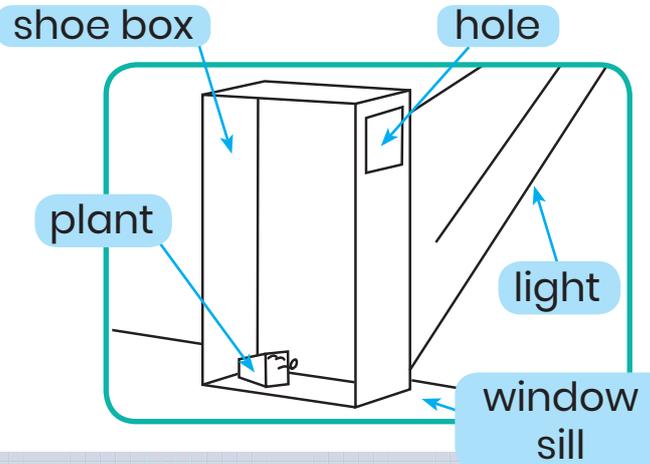


plant e.g.
sunflower or
bean plant



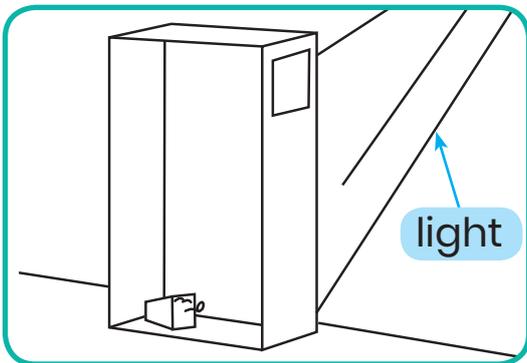
Steps:

1. Cut a large hole in the side of the shoebox.
2. Water the plant and place it in the bottom of the shoebox, on its side.
3. Place the lid on the shoebox.
4. Put the shoebox on a window sill.



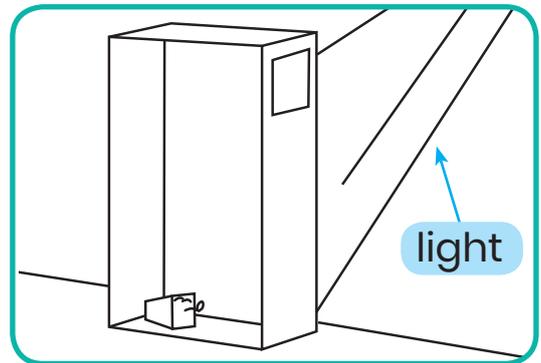
Prediction:

Draw the direction you **think** the plant will grow:



Results:

Draw the direction the plant grew:



Conclusion:

Plants grow _____