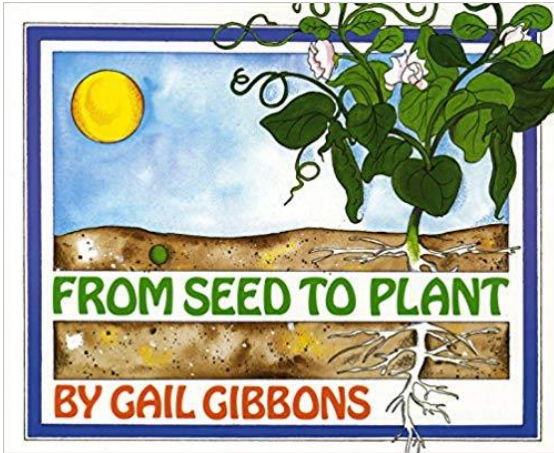


Signs of Spring

Recommended Grades: 3rd-5th



Parts of a Plant

Do you know all the parts of a plant?

Do you know the function of each part?

Is each part essential for a plant's survival?

Take a moment to list as many parts of a plant as you can. You probably can remember stem, leaf, petals, seeds, roots, etc. What about the style, stigma, anthers, and ovules? These parts, and more, are essential parts of a plant. Tryout the activities below to find out more.

Love, laugh, and learn together!

In Search of Spring

Head outside in search of spring! As a family, take a nature walk outside and take a closer look at all the flowers blooming and compare their parts; see if you can identify all the parts listed below. *For help identifying the parts as well as learning each part's function, check out the diagram and information located on our website.*

- Petals
- Sepals
- Receptacle
- Anthers
- Filament
- Stigma
- Style
- Ovary
- Ovules

Take it Further

Use the apps listed to help you identify your flower. Once you have identified it, do research online to find out more. To go *even* further, compile the information into a presentation to share with your family what you learned.

Here are some questions to ask about your flower/plant:

- *What are the common an scientific names of this plant?*
- *Is this plant native to Texas? If non-native, where is it native to?*
- *What adaptions does this plant have that help it to survive in it's environment?*
- *Does this plant have any medicinal use?*
- *Do pollinators use this plant? If so, do they use it for nectar or as a host plant?*

Try these apps to help you identify the flowers and plants you see:

- **iNaturalist**
- **PictureThis**

Sepals

Sepals are the first part of a flower to emerge when blooming. Sepals act as the protector of a flower while the flower is growing to protect the parts inside until they are fully developed.

Petals

A petal's purpose is to help attract pollinators while also allowing a spot for pollinators to rest while retrieving nectar and pollen. Some flowers have stripes or patterns that act as guides so that pollinators can easily locate the nectar (and pollen) within a flower.

Receptacle

The receptacle is normally located at the base of the flower and it holds the ovary and ovules within. Receptacles may have adapted to consist of tougher material than other parts of the flower so to protect the un-fertilized seeds inside.

Anthers

The anthers are little "pouches" that hold pollen, which is the genetic material spread from flower to flower by pollinators to help plants reproduce. Anthers are one part of the male organ of a flower.

Filaments

Filaments are another part of the male organs of a flower. They hold the anthers so that pollen is easily transferred onto visiting pollinators.

Stamen

The stamen is the name of both the anthers and filament combined.

Stigma

The stigma is one part of the female organ of a flower and typically has 3 prongs that spread apart. Pollen from another flower gets transferred to the stigma which then travels down the style.

Style

This style is another part of the female organs of a flower and it is in the shape of a tube. This allows the pollen collected by the stigma to then travel down towards the receptacle. The style is in the very center of the flower and is surrounded by stamen.

Ovary & Ovules

The ovary and ovules are also part of the female organs of a flower and are located inside of the receptacle. The ovary holds the ovules, which are unfertilized seeds waiting for pollen to fertilize them.

