

Record your answers here.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Try This



Try starting a compost bin. Throw in kitchen scraps like carrot tops, apple cores and coffee grounds. Additionally, add lots of old leaves and straw if you have it. After these items have decomposed, you can add the compost to your garden. Finished compost improves soil structure, provides organic fertilizer to plants and keeps garbage out of landfills.

KID QUEST PLANT PARTS



Working With Nature

Plants do very important work in nature. They play the vital roles of cleansing the air we breathe, regulating water cycles and supporting food webs in all ecosystems. In this edition of Kid Quest, explore various plant parts and their functions. Additionally, you may get to meet some interesting insects - which have roles to play in ecosystems too! Head outside to get started.

KID QUEST



Flowers

Head out to your backyard or take a walk in your neighborhood with an adult. If it is spring, summer or fall, you are likely to see some kind of flowers. Did you know flowers make fruits? Then, fruits make seeds. Flowers need to be pollinated in order to make seeds that will grow. Bees pollinate flowers. Do you see any bees with pollen on their legs?

Describe the different kinds of bees you see on the back of this sheet.



Leaves

What kind of leaves can you find outside? Perhaps you have a garden with lettuce, kale, or beet greens. Leaves are everywhere. The primary job of leaves is to make food for the plant. To do this, leaves use the sun's energy to break down water and carbon dioxide in a process called photosynthesis.

Describe your favorite leaf that you find on the back of this sheet.

Seeds

Look around for fruit. A fruit is a container for seeds. Scientists say a fruit is the structure that bears the seeds of a plant. Did you know that a pea pod is a fruit? An acorn is also considered to be a fruit by scientists. Seeds can be contained in many ways. How many different seed "containers" can you find? Remember that they can take many forms.

Write how many seed "containers" you can find on the back of this sheet.



Roots

The job of a root is to support a plant and to absorb water and nutrients from the soil. We eat the roots of some plants, like carrots. If we maintain healthy soil, we can provide nutrients for roots to absorb. Adding compost and mulch is a way we can improve soil in our own gardens.

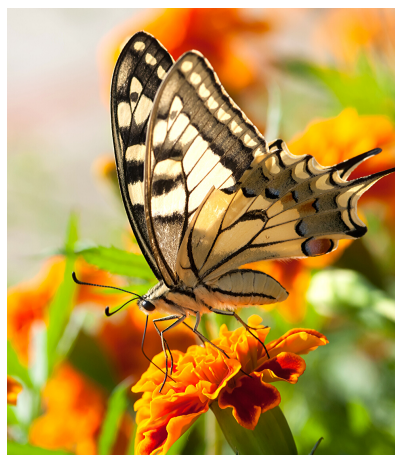
Pull up a root and measure it. Write its length on the back of this sheet.



Stems

Plant stems can be long, short, straight, curly, fat or thin. However, they all play the same role. Stems transport water and nutrients to other plant parts. The stem in this photo is a serving plate of aphids for this ladybug. Aphids are harmful to plants. Ladybugs are beneficial because they eat a variety of garden pests.

Describe different bugs you see on the back of this sheet.



Pollinators

Swallowtail butterflies, like the one in this photo, are wonderful pollinators. This one is pollinating a bright orange marigold. Pollinators are attracted to the color and the scent of flowers. A flower garden can provide a feast of pollen and nectar for a variety of pollinators.

Write how many different pollinators you see on the back of this sheet.