



SELDOVIA VILLAGE TRIBE



SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • ART • MATHEMATICS

Spring Is Here!

Let's Start Planting!



Here is all you need:

- Seeds (Pick up at Seldovia Village Tribe Admin Building)
- Soil (Pick up at Seldovia Village Tribe Admin Building)
- Planting containers: 4-packs, paper or plastic cups, etc. (Seldovia Village Tribe Admin Building)
- Water & sunlight

What will make this more FUN?

- Designing and planting your own outdoor garden
- Planting a container garden outside

Materials pickup:

- **Friday, April 17th** @ Seldovia Village Tribe Admin Building. Contact Shannon Custer @ (907) 435-3252 to schedule a pick-up time.



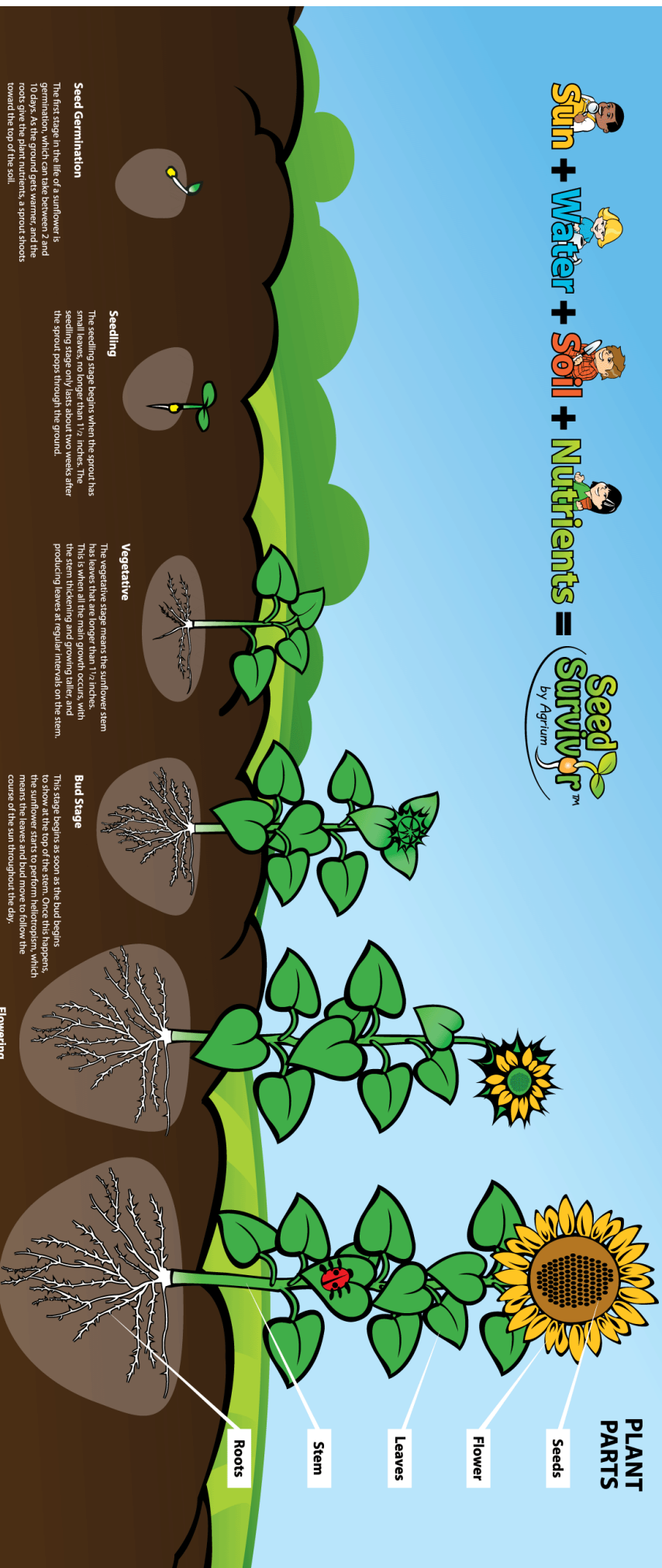
Directions for planting your seeds:

- 1) Be sure that you put drainage holes in your containers; use a nail to poke 3 or 4 holes in the bottoms of paper cups; use a scissors to clip 3 or 4 slits along the bottom edges of plastic cups.
- 2) Write the name of the seeds and the date planted on your container or on a planting marker.
- 3) Fill your pot $\frac{3}{4}$ th full with soil; pat it down some so that the soil is fairly firm, then rough up the surface with a pencil or stick.
- 4) Plant three seeds about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart and press gently into the soil, or for really small seeds, take a tiny pinch and sprinkle them on the soil. See seed packet directions. Cover most seeds with $\frac{1}{8}$ inch soil.
- 5) Gently pour a little water on your seeds and soil.
- 6) Cover your seeds with saran wrap or place your pot inside a plastic bag and seal it with a rubber band for about a week or until your seeds sprout. After they sprout remove the plastic or saran wrap. Which seeds sprouted first?
- 7) Place your pots in a tray (to collect excess water) and place in a sunny area. Turn your tray around every few days to promote even, full growth.
- 8) If more than one seed in your pot sprouts, you may want to transplant the extra seedlings to other containers. The ideal time to transplant is after the first true leaves appear above or between the original seed leaves (cotyledons).
- 9) Transplant the seeds in their original containers, once their roots reach the outside of their container. Once they are well established in their new pots, you'll want to harden them off outside, if you plan to plant them outside. We put them outside in the morning and bring them back in each evening for a couple of weeks before planting in our outside gardens.

Findings you can share and other things you can do:

- 1) Once your seeds sprout, choose three of the same type of plant for your growth record. It is always good to study three replicates, or to repeat what you are doing three times. This gives your data more power!
- 2) Decide how often you will record your data.
- 3) Complete the Plant Growth Data Table which follows. Measure plant height in centimeters (cm) and count the number of leaves present each time you record data. Do this for three of the same type of plant.
- 4) You might want to graph your data. If so, we can help you with that!
- 5) Share your data on SVT Community Services Facebook page - take a photo & post it! Or email your data to Shannon Custer @ scuster@svt.org.

Plant Growth Stages



Seed Germination

The first stage in the life of a sunflower is germination, which can take between 2 and 10 days. As the ground gets warmer, and the roots give the plant nutrients, a sprout shoots toward the top of the soil.

Seedling

The seedling stage begins when the sprout has small leaves, no longer than 1 1/2 inches. The seedling stage only lasts about two weeks after the sprout pops through the ground.

Vegetative

The vegetative stage means the sunflower stem has leaves that are longer than 1 1/2 inches. This is when all the main growth occurs, with the stem thickening and growing taller, and producing leaves at regular intervals on the stem.

Bud Stage

This stage begins as soon as the bud begins to show at the top of the stem. Once this happens, the sunflower starts to perform heliotropism, which means the leaves and bud move to follow the course of the sun throughout the day.

Flowering

Once the bud begins to open, the flower remains facing east and no longer performs heliotropism. The complete opening of the bud can take up to 7 days, and proceeds from the outside toward the middle of the sunflower.

Ripening

The final stage of the sunflower plant allows the seeds to fall and become planted in the ground. As the seeds begin to grow, the leaves and stems turn yellow and then brown. The stem and head begin to dry out and eventually all of the seeds are loosened and fall out.

www.SeedSurvivor.com