

Life Science Level 2



Plants: How They Grow & How They Help Us

By Bonnie Rose Hudson



SAMPLE

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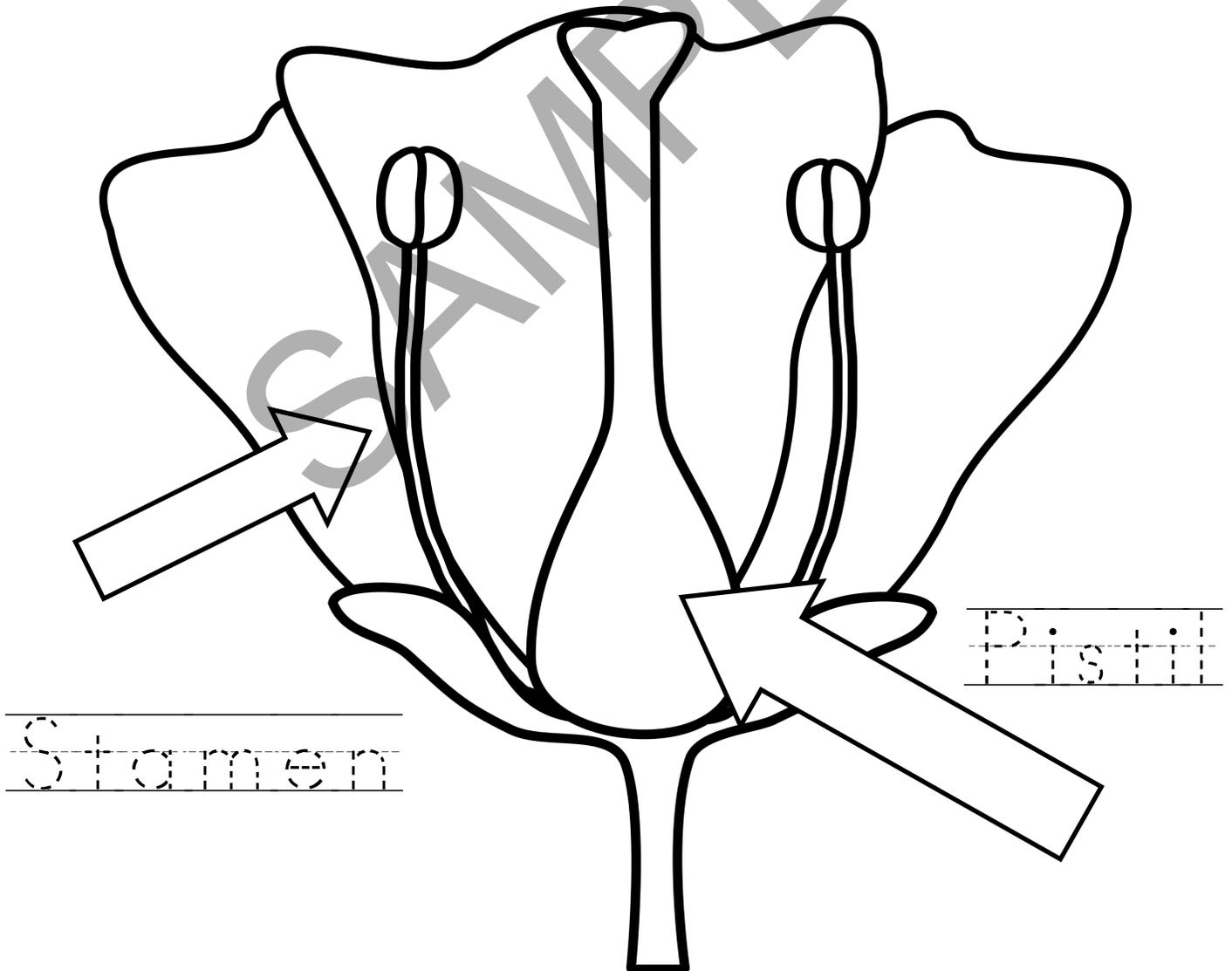
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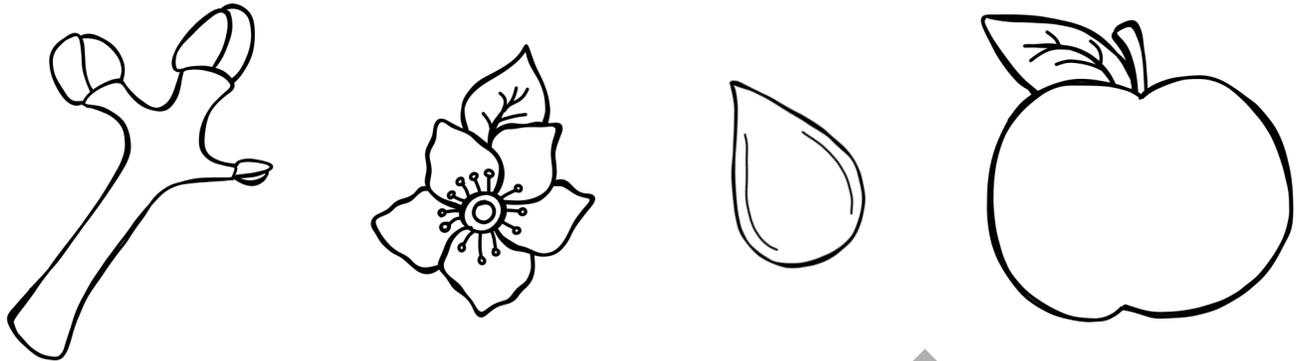
Plants: How They Grow and How They Help Us

Plants are a very important part of our world. Without them, we wouldn't have the air we need to breathe or many of the foods we eat. Animals would starve with no plants to eat, and the soil would all wash away with no plant roots to hold onto it. Have you ever wondered how plants make more of themselves? They can't get up and move from place to place. They don't have cubs or kits like some animals do, and they can't lay eggs the way fish and birds do. So how does one plant reproduce and make more of itself? Many plants use a process called pollination.

Most plants are seed plants. They make seeds that can grow into new plants. In order for a plant to make a seed, pollen from one part of the plant has to reach another special part of the plant. In flowering plants, the pollen is made in the **stamen** and must travel to the **pistil**. Pollen uses many different ways to travel, including the wind, insects, and birds.

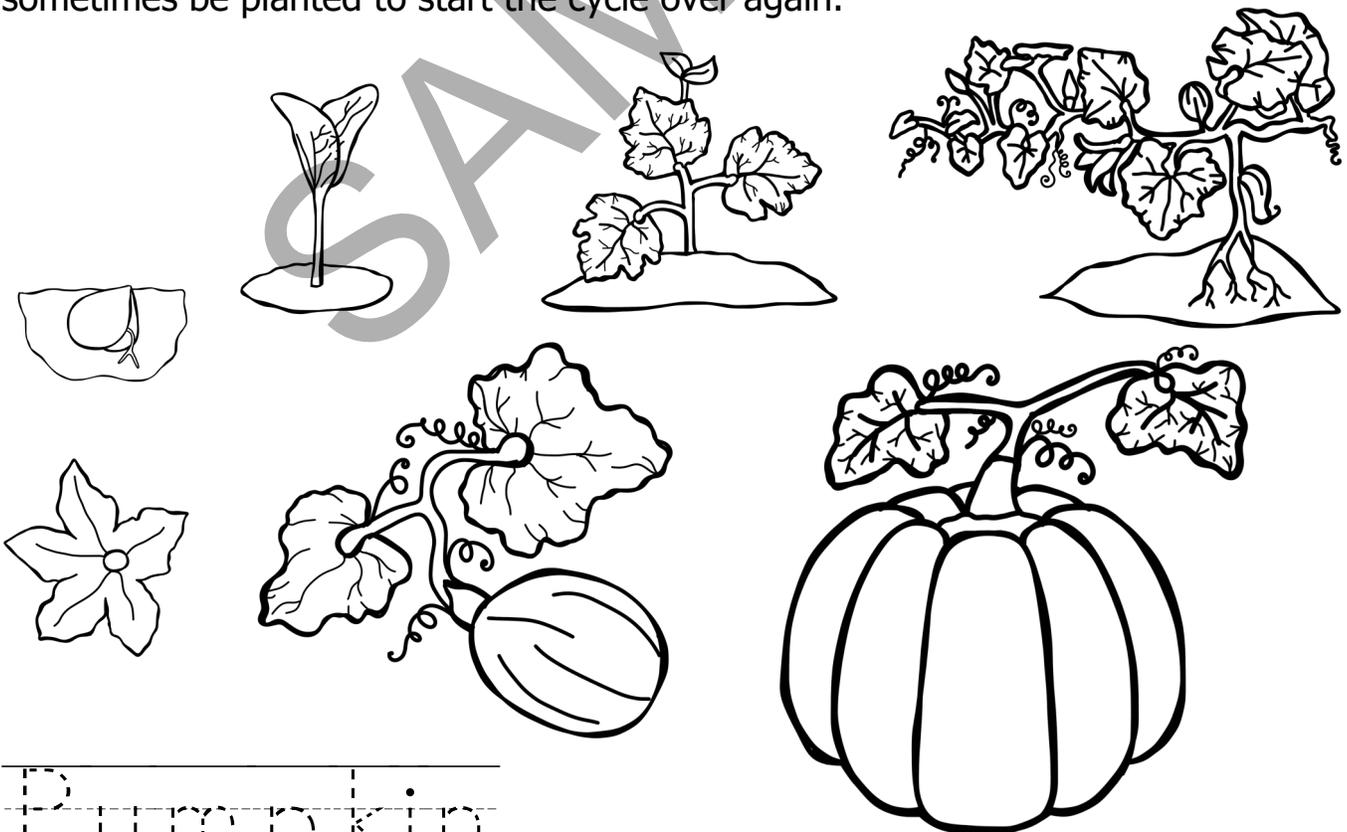


Let's look at an **apple** tree. When the weather is warm enough, the tree begins to bud. The buds open into flowers. After the flowers blossom, insects carry the pollen from the stamen of one flower to the pistil of another flower. The flower produces seeds, and the seeds grow into an apple.



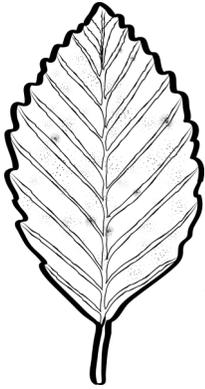
Apple

Pumpkins are another flowering plant. After a pumpkin seed sprouts, it grows into a plant. The plant grows into a vine, which produces many flowers. Only certain flowers can grow into pumpkins. Once the flowers are pollinated, a small pumpkin begins to grow. Most pumpkins grow to weigh between 5 and 30 pounds (2.3-14 kilograms), but some have been known to weigh more than 1,000 pounds (450 kilograms). The pumpkins have more seeds inside of them, which can sometimes be planted to start the cycle over again.



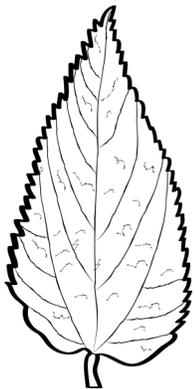
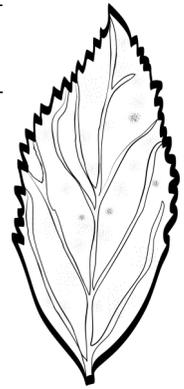
Pumpkin

Not only are there many different types of flowers, there are many different types of leaves. Often, you can tell what kind of tree a leaf is from just by its shape. Look closely and see how many differences you can spot between the leaves from these trees.



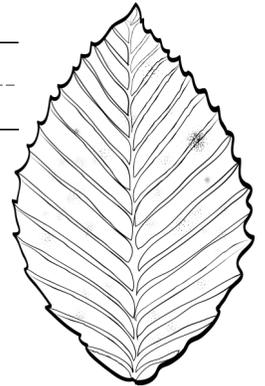
Alder

Ash



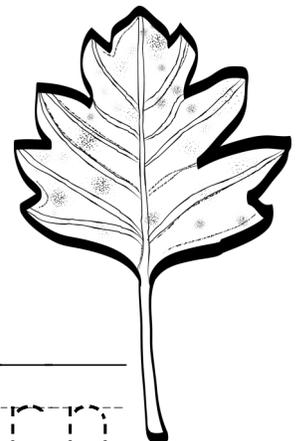
Hackberry

Beech

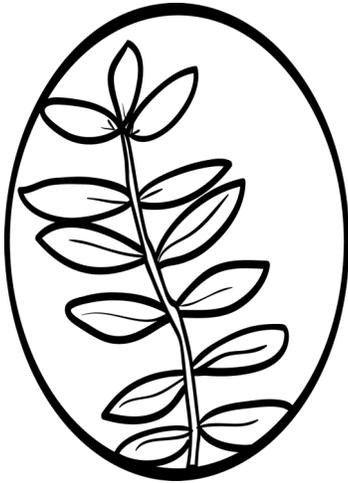


Red maple

Hawthorn



Some plants give us special kinds of seeds called pulses. Most of the common pulses we eat are types of beans, like **lentils**, **navy beans**, and **pinto beans**.



Lentils, navy beans,
and pinto beans

Some plants have roots that are healthy food for us to eat, like **carrots**, **radishes**, and **turnips**. These foods all have important vitamins and other substances our bodies need to stay healthy.



Carrots, radishes,
and turnips

Review

Which of the following is not a cereal grain? Draw an X through it.



Barley

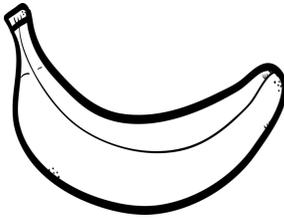


Corn



Lentil

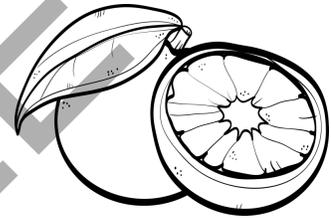
Which of the following is not a fruit? Draw an X through it.



Banana



Spinach



Orange

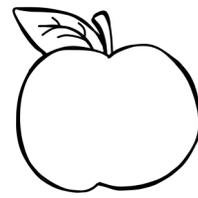
Which plant that we learned about grows on a vine and can weigh more than 1,000 pounds (450 kilograms)? Draw a circle around it.



Pumpkin



Cacao beans



Apple

Which of the following is not the root of a plant? Draw an X through it.



Carrots



Celery



Radishes

Review Answer Key

Which of the following is not a cereal grain? Draw an X through it.



Barley

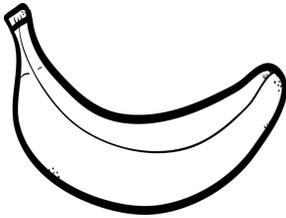


Corn

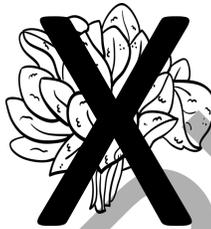


Lentil

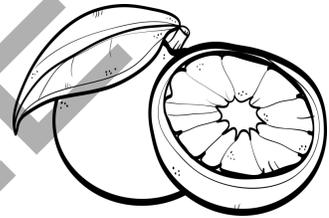
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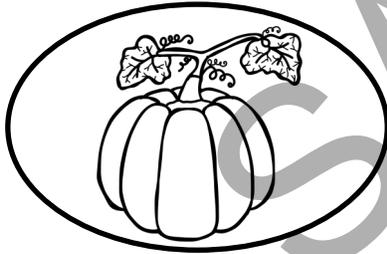


Spinach



Orange

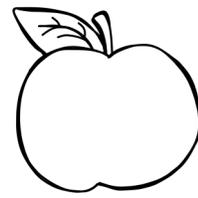
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