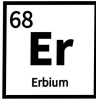
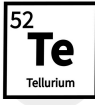


2ND GRADE SCIENCE

newsletter

Week of: March 10th - March 14th



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?

Standard: SC.2.L.16.1
Major stages of life Cycles
in plants and animals.



HOMEWORK

Life cycle of a Sunflower

- passage
- word match
- maze
- life cycle diagram

Due Monday, March 17th.



LIFE CYCLES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS



CONTACT ME

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ABOUT SUNFLOWERS




The scientific name for a sunflower is *Helianthus Annuus*.

The word *Helianthus* comes from two Greek words. *Heilos* meaning sun and *anthus* meaning flower. *Annuus* comes meaning annual.


Sunflowers are annual flowers, meaning new seeds must be planted every year. The word sunflower means sun flower or flower of the sun. Many believe that the sunflower head resembles the sun.

Sunflowers are giants among flowers. The stem of a sunflower can grow up to 3 m (10 ft) tall and the flower head can be 30 cm (11.8 in) wide.



The flower head is actually an inflorescence made of hundreds or thousands of tiny flowers called florets. The central florets look like the center of a normal flower, and the outer florets look like yellow petals. All together they make up a "false flower" or pseudanthium.

The flower of a sunflower plant is heliotropic, which means it can move in response to the sun's current direction. Only the buds and young flowers move with the sun. As the flower matures and starts to produce seeds it will have a fixed direction, which is typically east.



Sunflower plants have many uses. The flowers make a yellow dye. The leaves are used to feed animals. Seeds that come from the disk flowers contain a sweet, yellow oil. Sunflower oil is used in cooking and in making soaps and paints. Many people eat dried or roasted sunflower seeds as a snack.



LIFE CYCLE OF A SUNFLOWER



1. Seeds

The sunflower life cycle begins with a seed. The seed is planted in soil or compost in spring. The seeds have a hard coat. They are black and white striped or just black



2. Germination

Soon after they're planted, sunflower seeds start absorbing moisture through their shells. As they soak up more and more water, their shells begin to crack open, as they're unable to contain the extra moisture. The sunflower's roots emerge first - their role is to stabilize the plant and absorb vital nutrients from the soil.

3. Sprout

Once the roots have absorbed plenty of water, a small shoot will make its way out of the ground.



4. Seedling

As the stem grows taller and taller, the plant will grow many more leaves. The fledgling sunflower uses its leaves to absorb sunlight, which it turns into food via photosynthesis.

5. Bud and Bloom

The plant grows taller and stronger, towards the sun. After 30 days, the bud forms. The flower head opens. After around 90 days, the sunflower will be fully grown.

6. Adult plant

The flower petals will start to wilt and the plant dies. The flower shrivels and the seeds from its head fall. Some of the seeds settle in the ground and begin the new sunflower's life cycle.



LIFE CYCLE WORD MATCH

*Match the words with the correct Sunflower Life Cycle.
Connect with a line!*



Seeds

Germinated Seed

Sprout

Seedling

Leaf Growth

Bud Growth

Adult Plant

SUNFLOWER MAZE

Let's water this Sunflower plant. Try not to bump into the edges!



LIFE CYCLE OF A SUNFLOWER



Seeds

Germinated Seed

Seedling

Adult plant

Sprout

Bud growth

Leaf growth