

The Seed Surprise

by Julie Verne

illustrated by Bill Ogden



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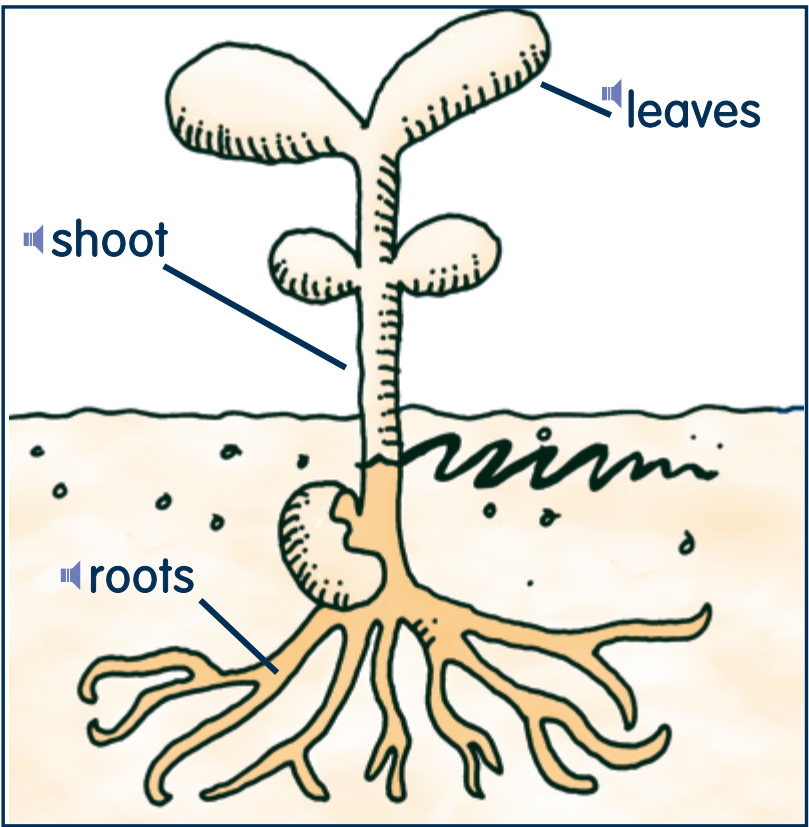
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Sam sees something growing outside in his yard. "What will this little sprout grow into?" he wonders.





Sam thinks about the little plant growing in the soil. He wonders what it will look like.





Sam's dog, Rex, likes to dig. Sam protects the little plant. He puts a little fence around it.





- The plant needs sunlight and water to grow. When no rain falls, Sam waters it.





By summer, the plant is growing very fast. Its stems grow long. Sam thinks it looks bigger every day.





One day, Sam sees beautiful yellow flowers on the plant. "Stay away, Rex," says Sam. "These flowers are not for you."





Sam is surprised when the yellow flowers turn into small, green pumpkins. Now Sam knows what kind of plant it is.





- ▶ The pumpkins grow and turn orange. As each one ripens, Sam's dad cuts it off the plant. Sam scoops out the seeds.





Sam washes the smooth pumpkins in one of the streams near his house. He gives two to his mom. Pumpkins are full of nutrition and good to eat.

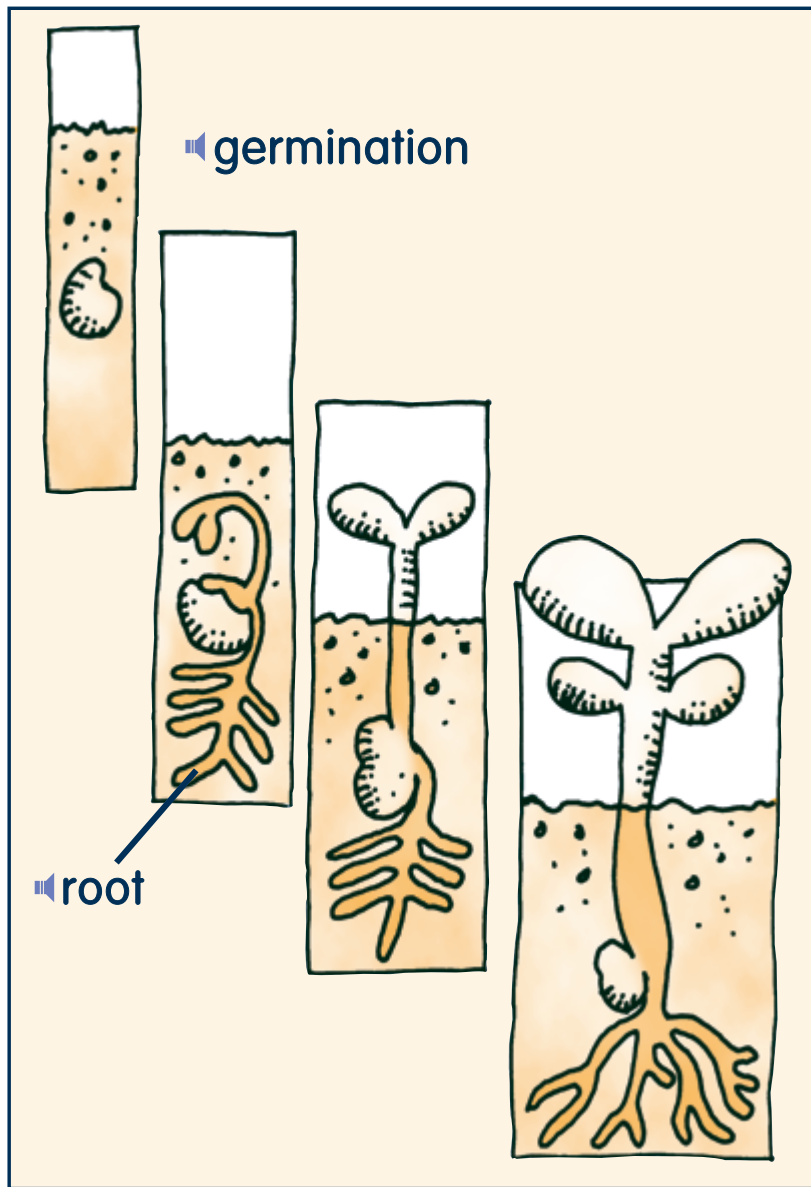






Sam cuts faces into the rest of his pumpkins. He notices the pumpkin seeds on the ground. He sees his dog digging in the soil. Sam thinks he knows what will happen.







▶ The next spring, Sam sees a lot of green sprouts in his yard. They look like the pumpkin plant he grew last year. Sam protects and waters the plants.





- When all of the pumpkins ripen, Sam has too many! He calls his friends. They are happy to get Sam's pumpkins.















Some of Sam's friends help him. They know just what to do. So does Rex! He knows it's time to dig in the soil and plant more pumpkin seeds!



Think and Respond

-  **1** How does the story say plants grow?
-  **2** What kind of information do the diagrams show?
-  **3** What has Sam learned?
-  **4** How do you know Sam likes to grow things?
-  **5** Is Sam like you? Explain.
-  **6** What would you do if you found a new plant growing in your yard?

  **Draw a Plant** Draw and label a plant that you like. Does it have flowers? Show them.

  **School-Home Connection** Read the diagrams on pages 3 and 13. Discuss the information they show with a family member.