

CLOVERBUDDIES

**A 4-H EXPLORATION ACTIVITY SERIES FOR
CLOVERBUD MEMBERS**



APRIL 2024

PROJECT EXPLORATION:

PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES

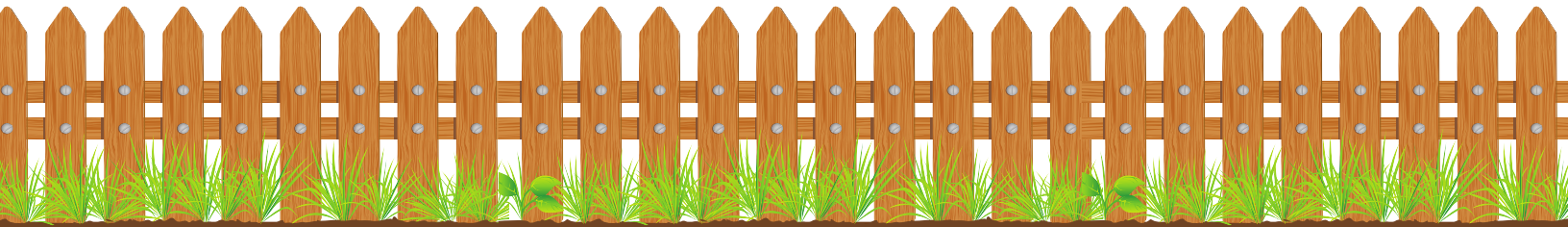


UW-MADISON EXTENSION
LA CROSSE COUNTY

DREAM GARDEN

Most gardeners plant their seeds in rows or plots like the grid shown below. This is so they will remember where each plant is and what is growing there. Design your very own garden in the space below. What would you plant-vegetables, flowers, trees?

Draw or describe what you would plant where.



UNDERGROUND CREATURES

Earthworms provide valuable fertilizer to soil that help all sorts of plants grow and be healthy. Worms help the soil, so if you think worms are gross, think again! Check out the fun facts about earthworms below. What do you already know about earthworms?

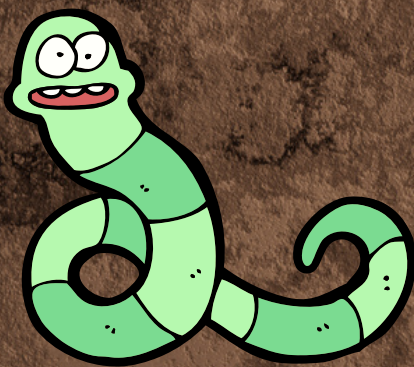


Earthworms move away from light because it dries out their skin.



Each segment of an earthworm has strong muscles that help it inch through soil.

Earthworms do not have teeth.



Too much water will suffocate a worm. This is why you see them above ground after a hard rain.



Earthworms are eaten by birds, moles, turtles, snakes and fish.



Earthworms can eat their way through soil.

GROW YOUR THINKING

Part of the 4-H Creed is pledging your “head to greater thinking.” A great way to do this is to regularly do little brain exercises. Let’s try it below with a brainstorm! How many plants can you think of and write down in 2 minutes? Feel free to challenge a friend or family member to see who can come up with more! And remember, plants can include things like flowers, trees, bushes, fruits, vegetables and weeds, to name a few.



The writing area is a large rectangle with a light beige background and a dark brown border. It features horizontal teal lines for writing. A vertical red line is positioned on the left side, creating a narrow margin. The top-left and bottom-right corners are decorated with floral illustrations, including brown flowers and pink berries on green stems with leaves.

RAINBOW CABBAGE

When you drink water because your body tells you it is thirsty! In this experiment you can see exactly how plants consume water and distribute it throughout its leaves.

MATERIALS

Cabbage leaves
Glasses or jars

Food coloring
Spoons

Paper towels

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Begin by filling a glass jar 1/3 of the way with cold water, using one glass for each color of cabbage that you wish to make.
2. Add several drops of food coloring to each glass and stir until combined.
3. Then, have kids place individual leaves of cabbage into the glasses.
4. Observe over the next few days and see how your leaves change colors! Usually it will take a few days for your cabbage leaves to become fully vibrant, so make sure you're patient!

Source: <https://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2019/02/rainbow-cabbage-experiment.html>



POLLINATION STATION

Have you ever wondered how butterflies, bees or other insects pollinate plants?! With this activity you can see how pollinators carry the pollen from flower to flower!

MATERIALS

- Colorful construction paper
- Juice Boxes with straws
- 1/4 cup of baking powder
- Paper plate
- Pipe Cleaner

SET UP

1. Cut the pipe cleaners in half, and bend it to look like little bug feet or wings. Cut your construction paper into flowers with holes in the middle (for your juice box straws to come through)
2. Then put your flowers on top of your juice boxes. These are your flowers that are not yet pollinated!
3. Put the baking powder on your paper plate - this is the main flower that has it's pollen ready to go.



POLLINATION SIMULATION

1. Have your pipe cleaner insect start by landing on the paper plate and snacking on some pollen!
2. Then have your pipe cleaner insect fly to then land on one of your flowers to drink the nectar from the straws! Tap your insect a little bit to mimic it adjusting while drinking the nectar (But don't get any in the straw).
3. Now repeat steps 1-2 until all of your flowers have been pollinated! You can even drink your nectar (juice boxes to taste the sweet work of your pollinators!)

FAIR PROJECT! TREE LEAVES POSTER

Trees grow in all different shapes, colors, and sizes! One of their most unique features are their leaves. Follow the instructions below to create your own poster with different tree leaves, which you can enter in the fair this year if you'd like!

MATERIALS:

- Construction Paper
- Poster Board 14"x22"
- 5 Tree Leaves
- Glue
- Writing Utensils



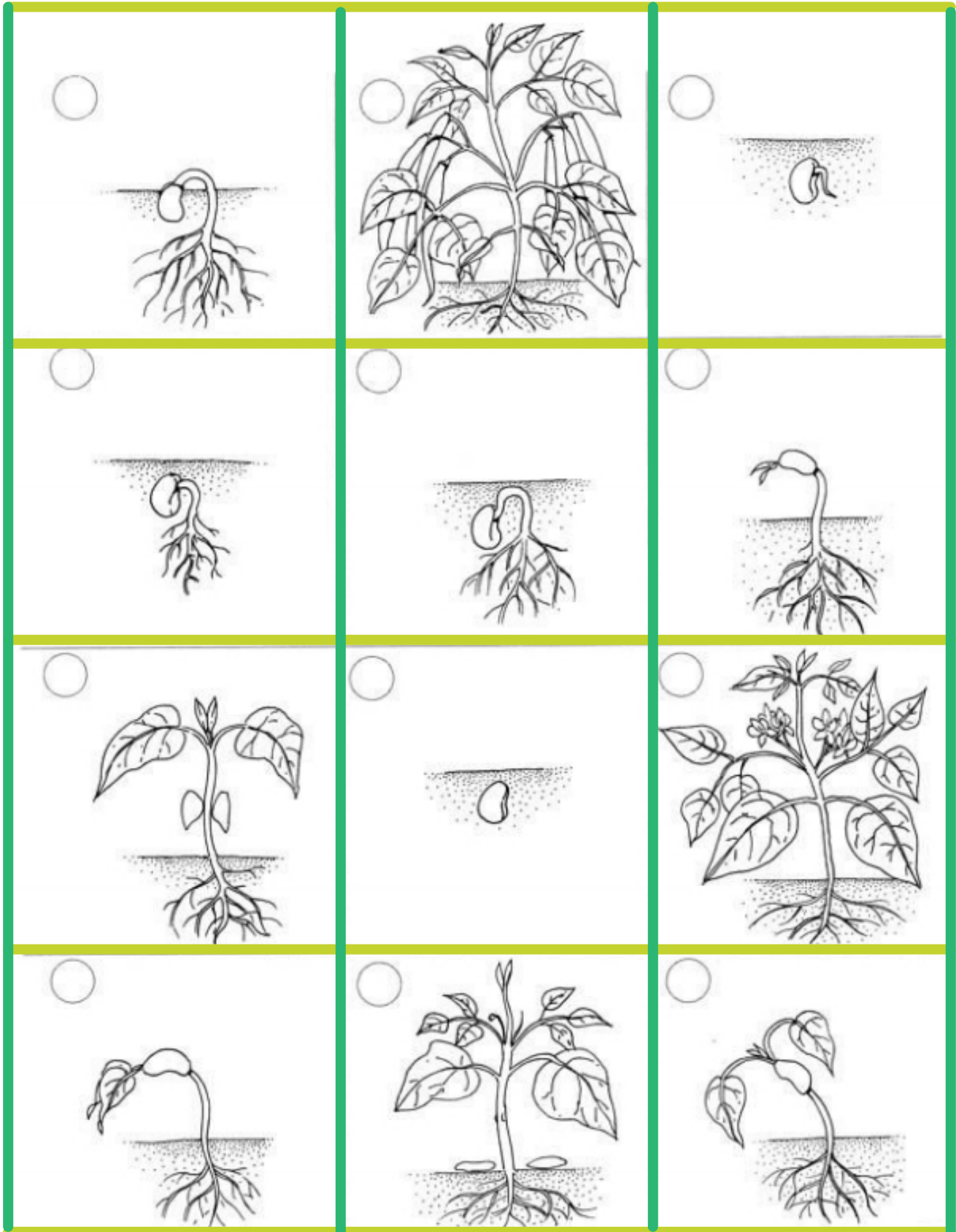
DIRECTIONS:

1. Find 5 leaves from trees around your home (or school, or daycare!)
2. Tape or glue your leaves to your poster board in a way that you like how they look together.
3. Add a title and anything else you'd like to your poster - maybe something about where you found the leaves and what kind of tree they came from!

This can be a fair exhibit, Department 17, Class A, Item 1; Poster of 5 tree leaves mounted, labeled 14"x22"! Visit www.lacrosseinterstatefair.com after June 1st, and you can enter this exhibit on the registration.

BEAN LIFE CYCLE

We all grow from little babies to full grown adults, plants do the same thing!
Cut out the squares below and arrange them in the correct order for the plant's life cycle!



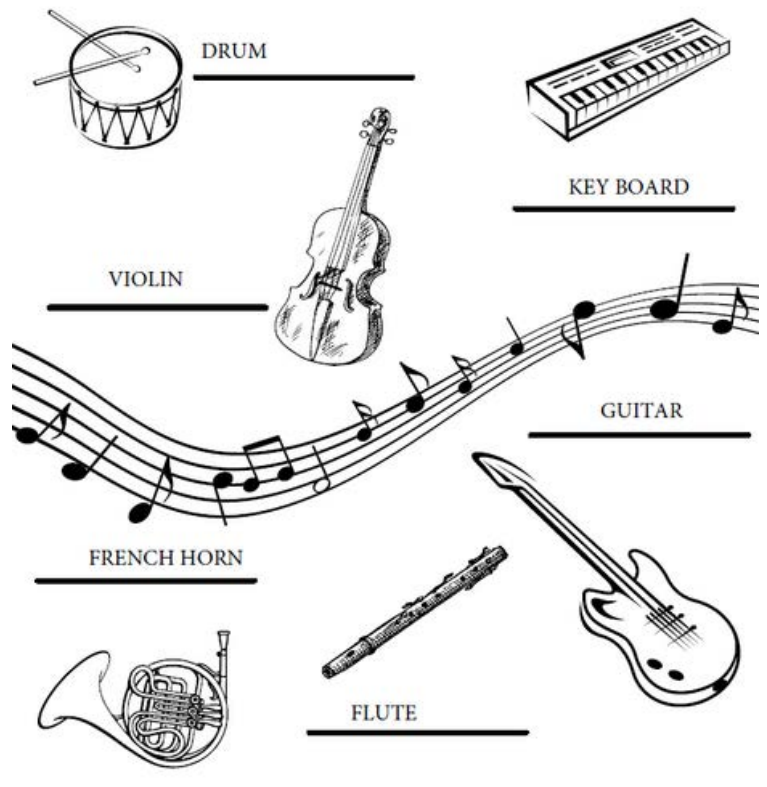
MARCH ANSWER KEYS

Answers to all Cloverbuddies activities will appear on the back cover of the following month's issue. For answers to this issue, watch for March's installment of Cloverbuddies!

PERFORMANCE SEARCH



INSTRUMENTALS



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