

Reading

# Sunflower Plant Life Cycle

Sunflowers are a type of flowering plant, which originally came from North America. The sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine. There are around 60 different species of sunflower! They can be yellow, dark red and orange. A popular tall variety is the 'American Giant', and one of the smaller types is called a 'Big Smile'. The tallest sunflower on record was 9.17 metres (30 feet 1 inch) and was grown by Hans-Peter Schiffer in 2014 in Germany! Sunflowers can be used to make lots of different products, such as oil, food and dye. Sunflower seeds can be eaten as a snack by animals and humans - some people sprinkle the seeds on salads.



1

## What happens during the first stage?

During the first stage of the sunflower life cycle, the seed is planted in soil or compost in spring when it is warmer. The seeds often have a black and white striped, hard coat, but can also be just black. The hard coat helps to protect the seed. Next, the seed begins to germinate. This is about 1-2 weeks after planting. The plant starts to grow and a tiny root reaches out of the seed and down into the soil.



2

## What happens during the second stage?

During the second stage, a green stem starts to grow above ground. This is a seedling. Underground, roots also continue to grow to keep the sunflower planted in the ground. The roots can grow as deep as 2 metres. A few leaves appear on the stem of the plant. The stem gets harder and thicker, making it stronger.



3

## What happens during the third stage?

During the third stage, the plant grows taller and stronger, facing towards the sun. As the plant grows bigger, a bud also forms after about 30 days. Slowly, the sunflower bud begins to unfold as the flower head opens. After around 90 days from planting, the sunflower will be fully grown. The head of the sunflower will be fully open and that is when you see the fully flowered, beautiful plant.



4

## What happens during the fourth stage?

At the end of the summer the flower petals will start to wilt. This is the final stage of the sunflower life cycle, when the plant dies. Eventually the flower shrivels and the seeds from its head fall onto the ground. A sunflower can produce up to 2000 seeds! Some of the seeds settle in the ground and then begin the new life cycle of the next sunflower.

1. How many different types of sunflower are there and what colours can they be?

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2. Name two varieties of sunflower.

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3. In what different ways can sunflowers be used?

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4. Who grew the tallest ever sunflower? When, where and how tall was it?

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5. When should you plant the seeds?

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6. What is a sunflower seed like and what does it do?

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7. Why do the sunflower's roots grow deep?

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8. What forms after around 30 days? What forms after around 90 days?

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9. What happens just before the plant completely dies?

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10. What does the sunflower produce for the new life cycle? How does it do this?

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**Writing**

Listen to the story 'Tell me a Dragon' by Jackie Morris.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAdG102siOU>

Think about what dragon you would like to be yours! There were lots of dragons we heard about in the story: Star Dragons, Tiny Dragons, Sky Dragons, Sea Dragons, Fire Dragons, Ice Dragons.

Today, your task is to draw a dragon that you would like to be yours. You can use one of the ideas from the story or you can create your own dragon! I have provided some pictures of dragons (in the student hub with today's daily task) to help you with your drawings or you could use the illustrations in the story. Colour in your drawings and include details too.



**Maths**

Complete the addition problems below. Look for key numbers and words in the problems to write the sum you need to do. Use your preferred addition method (mental, partitioning or drawings) to work out the sum.

Holly has 1p, Ben has 6p and Bob has 7p. How much money do they have altogether?



A bag of sugar weighs 2kg, a bag of carrot weighs 3kg and a bag of potatoes weighs 4kg. How much do they weigh in total?



Jill has £48 saved. Her mum adds £40 to her savings. How much does she have now?



Laura's hair is 25cm long. Her mum's hair is 3cm longer. How long is her mum's hair?



What is the sum of £65 and £19?



Jim has 62 sweets. Jack has 24 sweets. How many sweets do they have in total?



**Challenge yourself:**

## Prove it!



Jen buys a packet of crisp for 37p and a chocolate bar for 25p. How much does she spend?

## THINKING



Can you make up your own problem question that requires addition.

## EXPLAINING



- 1) Show me two numbers that have a sum of 32.
- 2) Show me three numbers that have a sum of 21.



## SOLVING



Ben has 38 sweets and Jon has 42 sweets. In total, they think they have 70 sweets. Explain how they are wrong.

**Practice spelling the words:**

Treasure

Measure

Pleasure

Usual

Usually

Vision

Television

Division

Spelling the 'zh' sound with the letters 's'. There are other tricky sounds in these words too. I have highlighted them in red so take care!

Spend ten minutes practicing and then get someone to test you. Can you put the words into sentences?