

How a Seed Starts to Grow



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

A seed may look like a tiny pebble, but there is a plant inside it, waiting. The seed will not start to grow until it has three things: water, warmth and a good place, such as soil. Starting to grow is called germinating.

A root pushes down into the soil. The root holds the new plant in place and takes in water and minerals. A stem with new leaves pushes up toward the light.

At first the little plant cannot make its own food. It lives on food stored inside the seed. When it is big enough, its leaves begin to make food using sunlight. This is called photosynthesis.

Once the shoot comes up out of the soil, the seed has germinated. But the plant has only just started. To keep growing, it needs water, warmth, nutrients from the soil and light.

1. What three things does a seed need before it starts to grow?

2. What does the root do for the new plant?

3. Where does a young plant get its food before its leaves can make it?

4. A seed is planted in a pot of soil, watered and kept warm in a dark cupboard. Do you think it would start to grow? Would it keep growing? Why?

Answer key

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1. What three things does a seed need before it starts to grow?
Water, warmth and a good place, such as soil.
2. What does the root do for the new plant?
It holds the plant in place and takes in water and minerals from the soil.
3. Where does a young plant get its food before its leaves can make it?
From the food stored inside the seed.
4. A seed is planted in a pot of soil, watered and kept warm in a dark cupboard. Do you think it would start to grow? Would it keep growing? Why?
Sample answer: it could start to grow, because it has water, warmth and soil, but it would not keep growing well, because a plant needs light to make its own food once the food in the seed is used up.