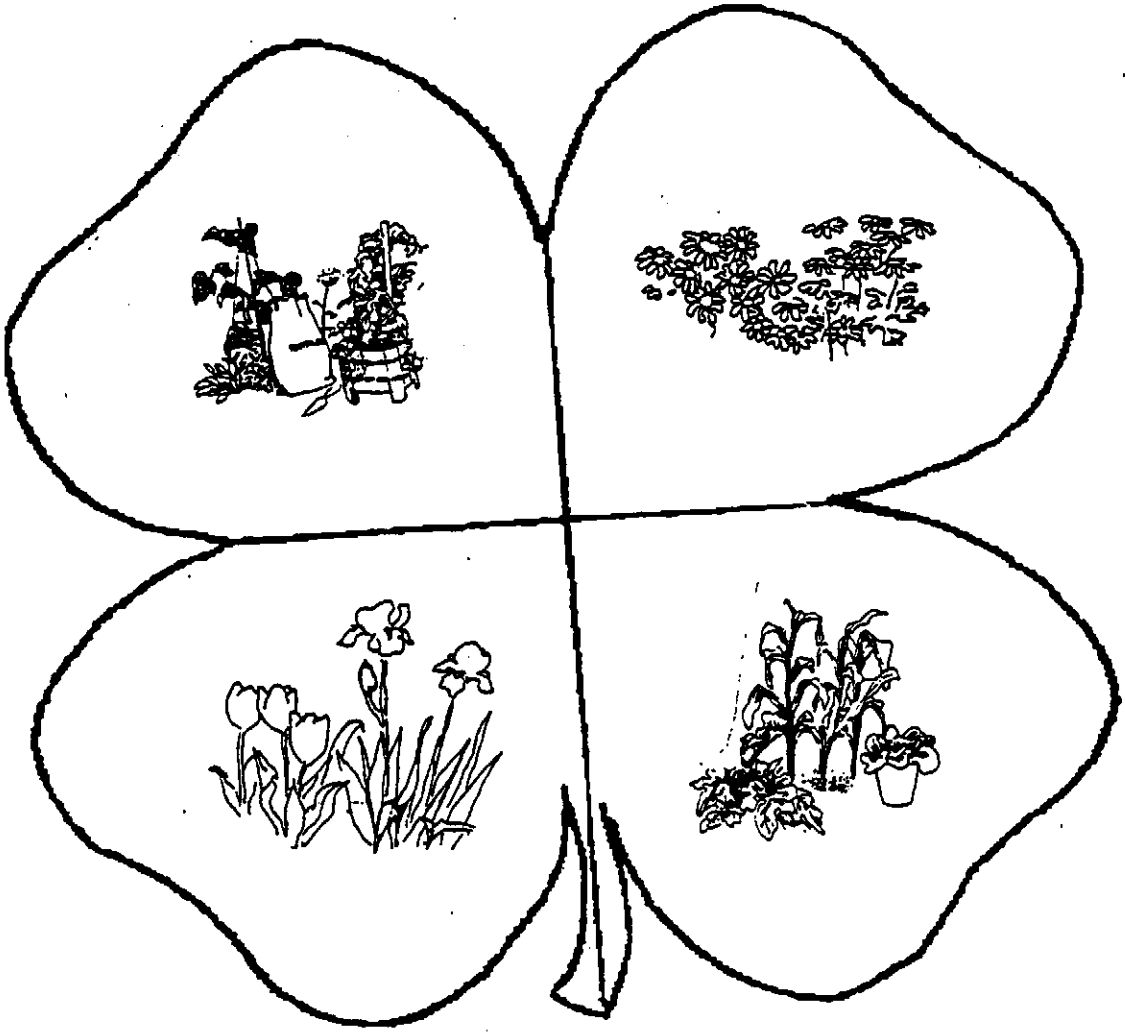
CLOVERBUDS



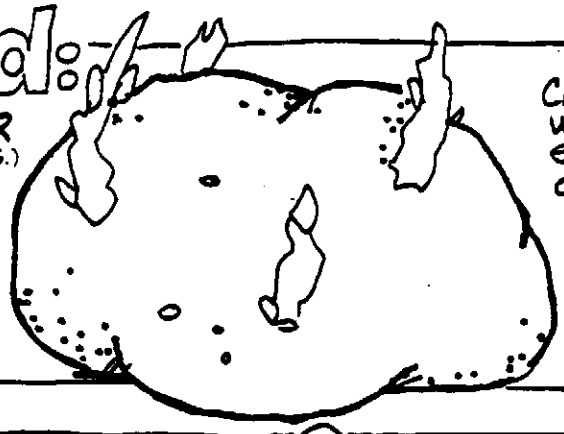
PLANT & SOIL SCIENCE

Bucket of Spuds

Plant a potato in a large bucket and you should get a bucketful in about 4 months. Early spring or fall is the best time to plant.

You need:

- A LARGE CONTAINER (IT MUST HAVE DRAINAGE HOLES.)
- A POTATO
- SOIL
- COMPOST

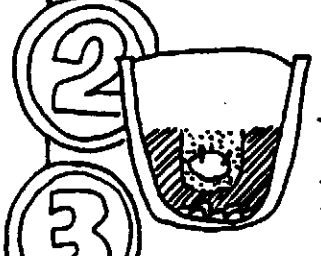


Choose a potato with lots of eyes. These are buds that will begin to sprout if the potato is left in a light, airy place.

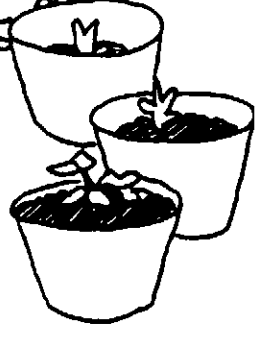
You Do:

1. Half fill your container with soil. Mix in a little compost.

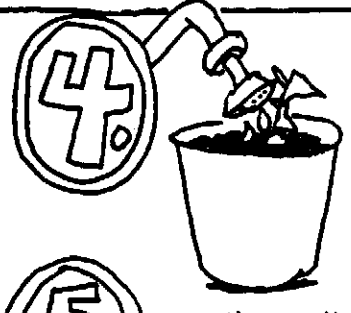
2. Make a hole in the soil large enough to take the potato. Leave the 2 strongest shoots on and rub the rest off. Bury the potato.



3. In 3 or 4 weeks when green shoots appear above the ground, add just enough soil to cover them again. This makes the stem push upward while little potatoes form below the ground.



4. Keep covering the plant until the bucket is full. Keep the soil damp.

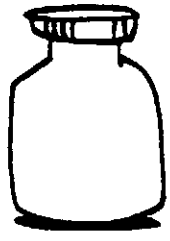


5. When the plant flowers, it's a sign that things are happening underground. When the flowers die, stop watering. Potatoes will have formed and wetness might make them rot. When the whole plant dies, tip the soil out and see how many potatoes you grew!

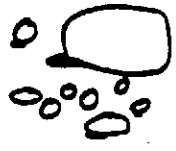
This is how I plan to cook and eat my spuds: _____

MAKE A TERRARIUM

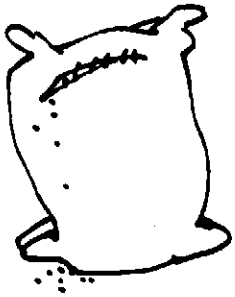
You need:



A large jar with lid



Pebbles and pretty rocks



Sand

Moist dirt

Small plants and straw flowers.

You do:

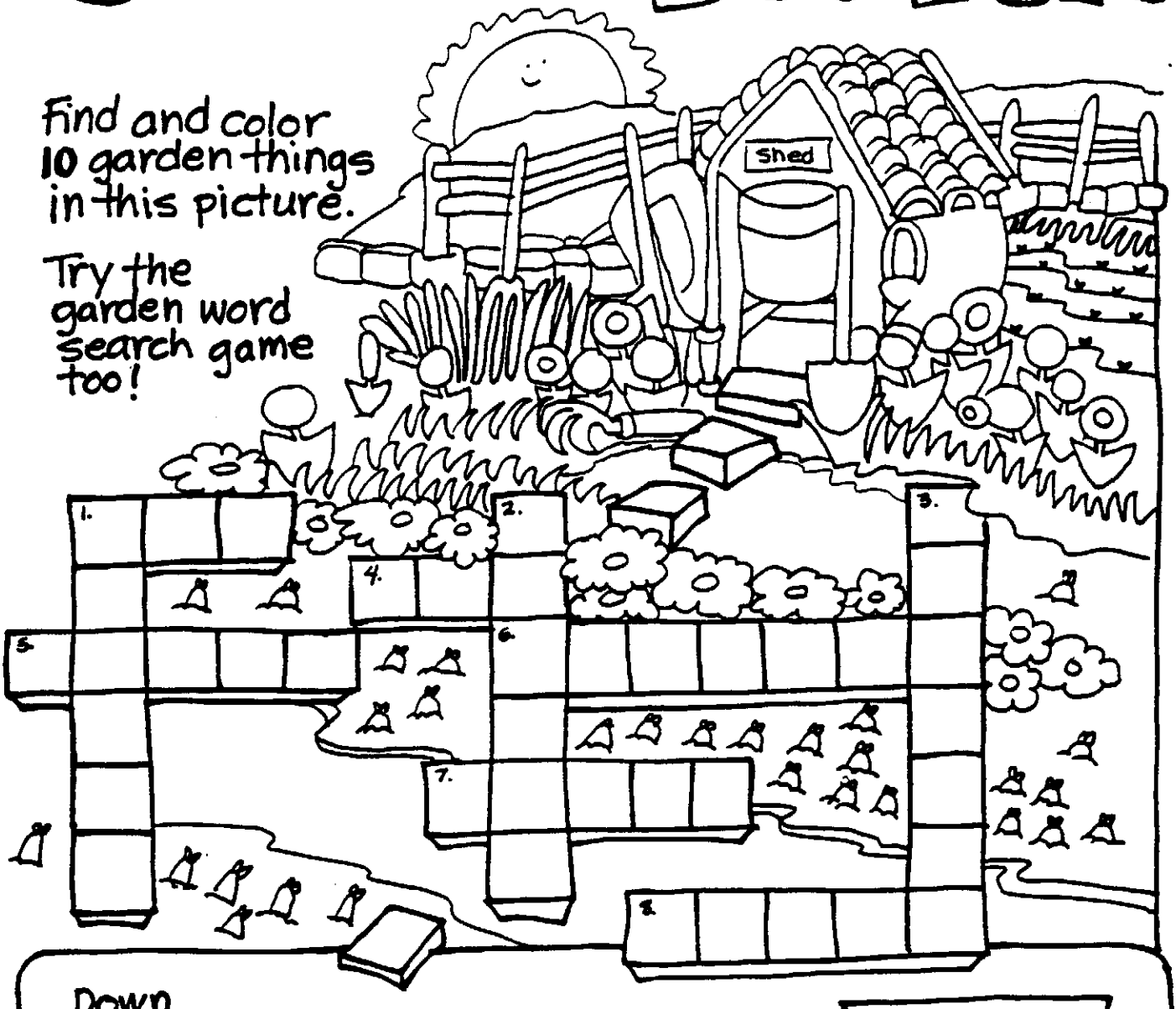
Wash and dry the jar (remove label). Add pebbles and sand in a 1 inch layer. Add a layer of dirt 1"-2" deep. Transplant the plants into jar. Stick in some strawflowers. Sprinkle lightly with water. Place rocks around the plants and put lid on.

Keep your terrarium in a light place. No direct sun, please!

Garden Search

Find and color **10** garden things in this picture.

Try the garden word search game too!



Down

1. Many kinds of _____ grow in gardens.
2. The part of lettuce that we eat.
3. Many of these are garden pests.

Across

1. Brignt green vegetable.
4. Garden tool.
5. Thirsty plants need plenty of _____.
6. Plants that live for only one growing season.
7. Plants start out as _____.
8. Gardens give us good _____ to eat.

Word Bank

hoe
pea
foods
seeds
insects
plants
water
annuals
leaves

Yum!

Fresh treats from the garden are tasty and good for us.

We eat **seeds** of some plants. Draw some seed foods here.

We eat **roots** of some plants. Draw some root foods here.

We eat **fruits** of some plants. Draw some fruits here.

We eat **leaves** of some plants. Draw some leaf foods here.

Turn your paper over and draw your favorite garden treat. Tell what you do to the food to make it ready to eat.

Seed Search

How many plants can you name whose seeds make tasty treats for people? Check out the puzzle below. Names are across and down.

r	t	s	b	j	r	c	w	s	b	j	u
o	c	p	e	a	h	a	j	e	n	d	p
n	p	r	a	z	e	s	k	s	k	v	o
c	o	r	n	i	t	h	a	a	l	p	p
o	p	a	z	p	c	e	w	m	i	j	p
c	c	s	t	r	a	w	b	e	r	r	y
o	o	p	l	e	l	r	y	a	n	i	k
n	r	b	y	o	m	l	o	m	f	c	o
u	n	e	l	y	o	s	u	b	m	e	g
t	o	r	s	u	n	f	l	o	w	e	r
m	u	r	c	m	d	s	d	a	n	h	o
s	l	y	a	d	m	n	o	l	o	x	m

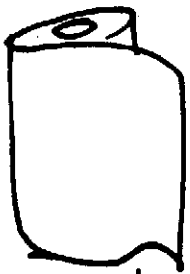
Look for these seeds:

coconut poppy sunflower
sesame cashew strawberry
popcorn raspberry corn
bean rice
almond pea

Adapted from A Teacher's Guide for Arbor Month, Minnesota Arbor Month Committee. Used with permission.

Rag Doll Test

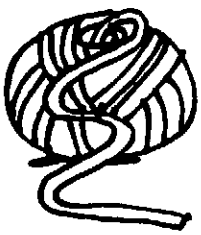
You need:


paper towels

waxed paper

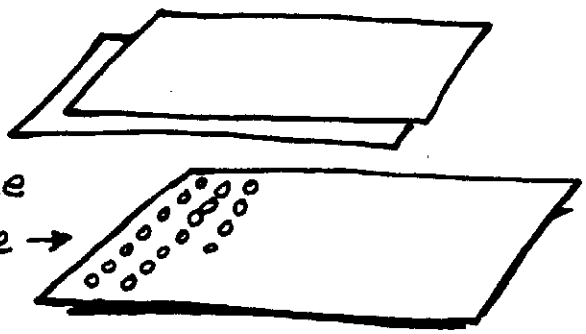
quart jar

seeds

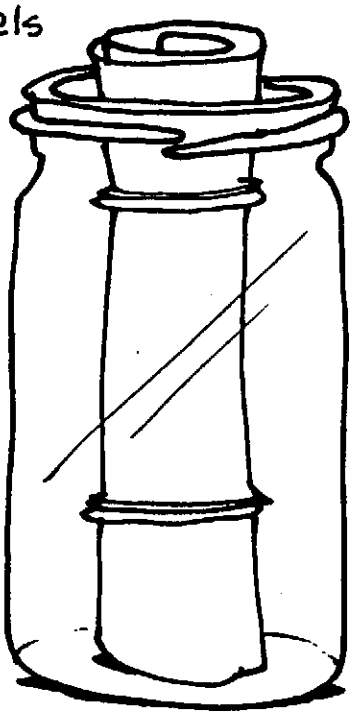

string

water

You do:



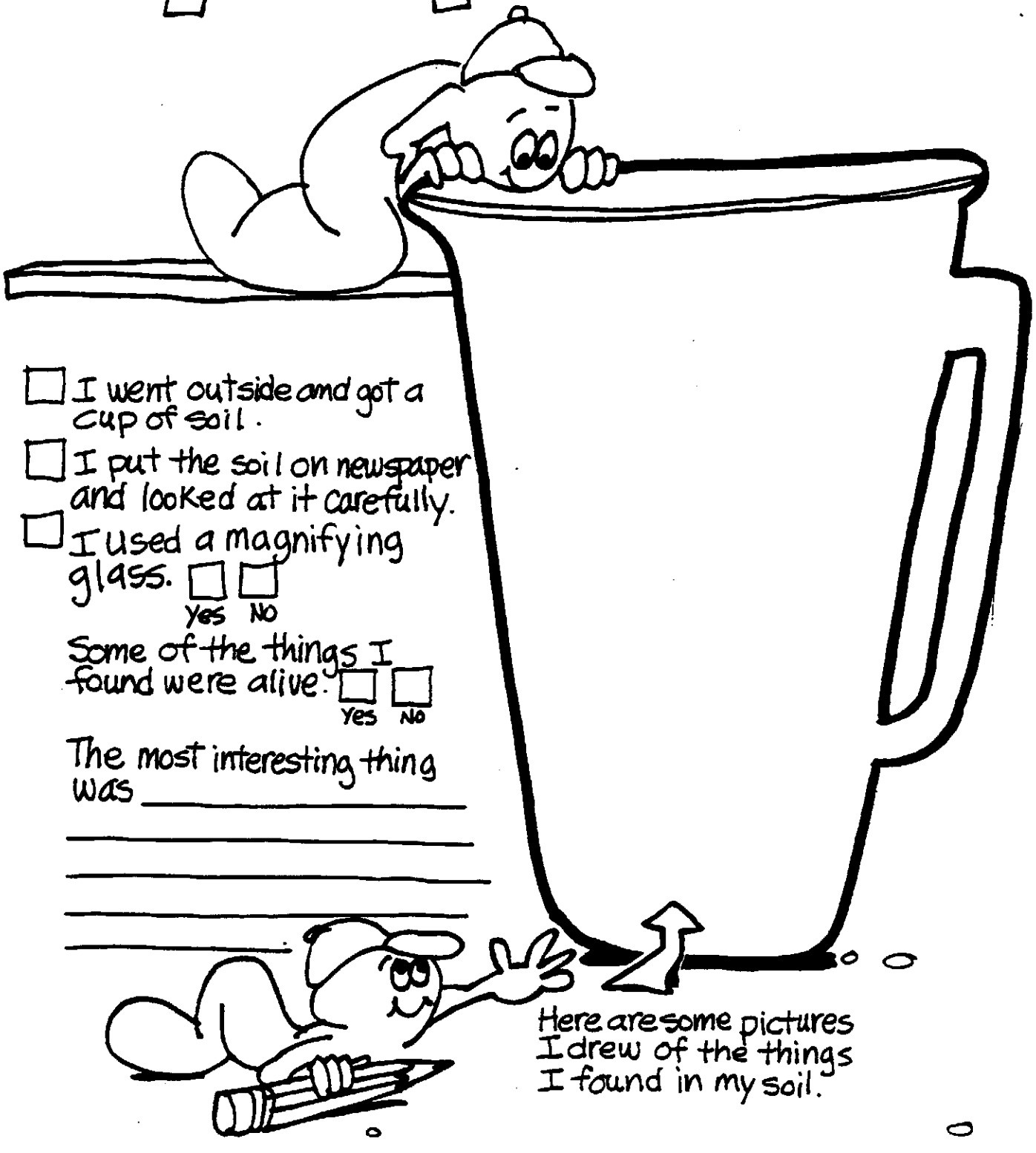
1. Lay a sheet of waxed paper (about 12"x12") on a flat surface
2. Place 100 small seeds or so large seeds in rows on the waxed paper.
3. Place two paper towels over the waxed paper and the seeds.
4. With your fingers, sprinkle water over the two paper towels until they are wet.
5. Roll the waxed paper and paper towels and tie with string as shown.
6. Without bending the roll, place it in the quart jar and set it in a warm place.



7. Check the roll daily. If it becomes dry, sprinkle it with water.
8. In 5 days take the roll from the jar. Untie the string. Unroll and gently separate the towels from the waxed paper. How many seeds sprouted?

_____

My Cup of Soil



☐ I went outside and got a cup of soil.

☐ I put the soil on newspaper and looked at it carefully.

☐ I used a magnifying glass. ☐ yes ☐ NO

Some of the things I found were alive: ☐ yes ☐ NO

The most interesting thing was _____

_____

_____

_____

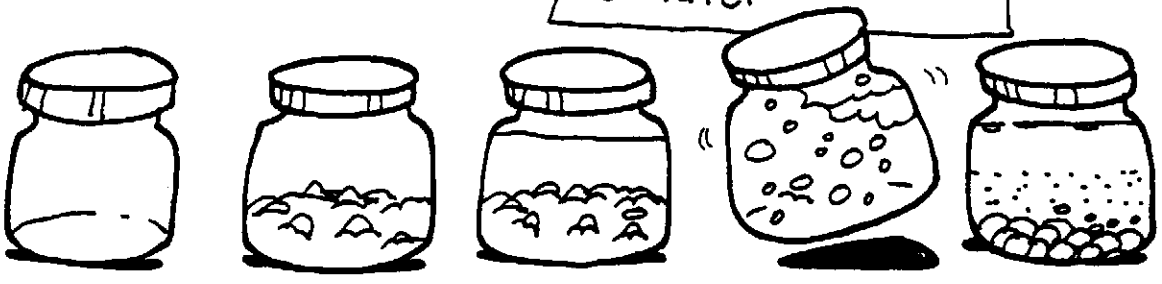
_____

Here are some pictures I drew of the things I found in my soil.

Here's the dirt!

You need:

- soil samples from many different places.
- clear jars with lids
- water



1. Put a handful of each different soil in separate glass jars.
2. Fill the jars with water and shake until the water looks cloudy.
3. Set the jars aside. Check after an hour or two. What do you see? _____

_____

How are the samples different? _____

_____

What does this tell you about soils? _____

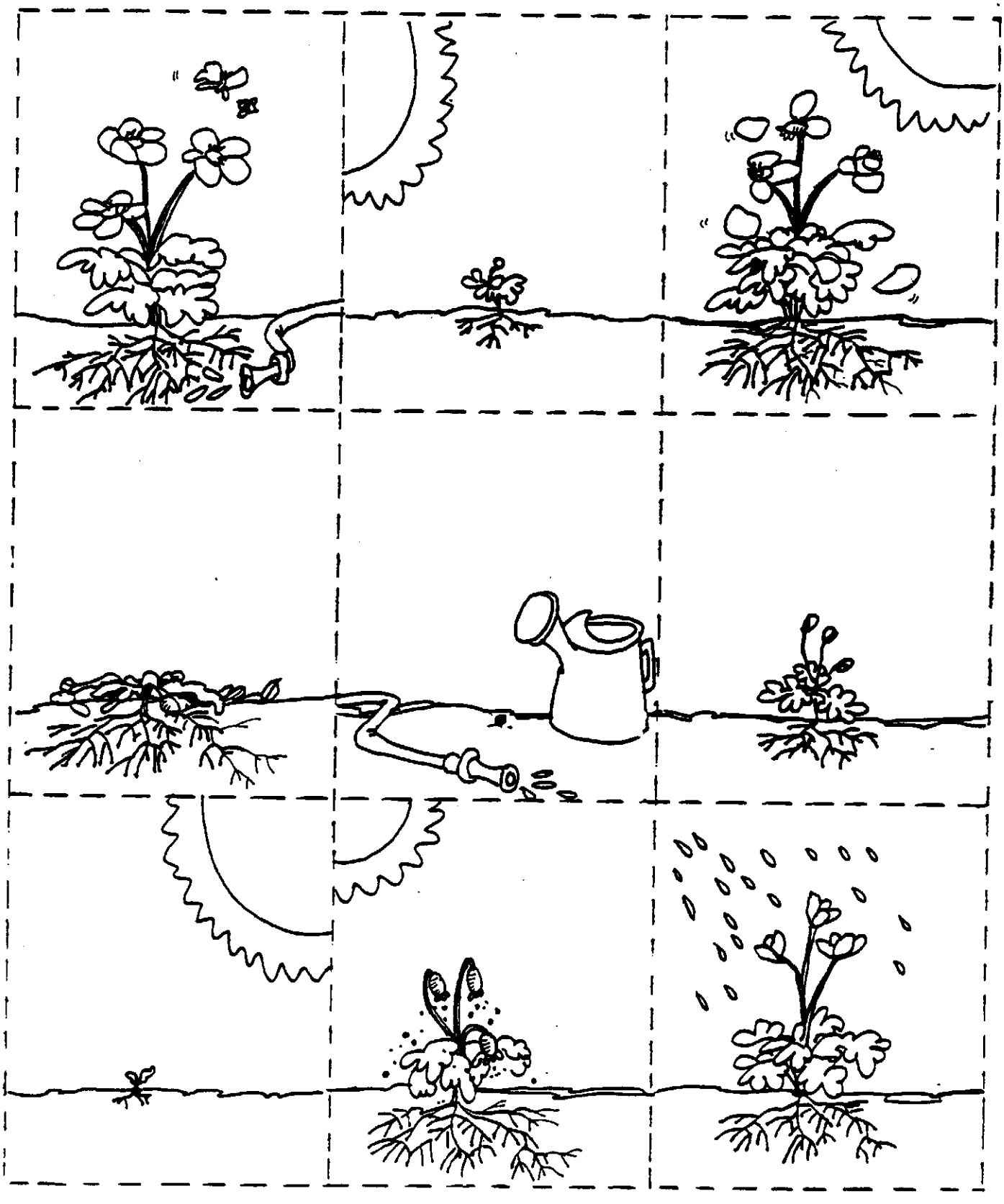
_____

_____

Largest soil pieces sink to the bottom; finer particles float to the top. Sometimes you'll also see a layer of fibrous pieces (humus). Good garden soil is a mix of fine and coarse particles. See your Leaders Guide for more about dirt!

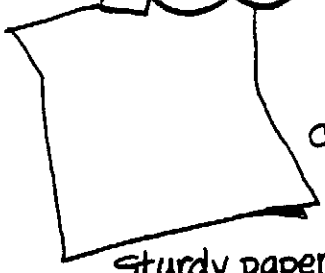
Life cycle of a flower

Color these pictures. Cut them out and put them in order by pasting them on a larger sheet of paper.



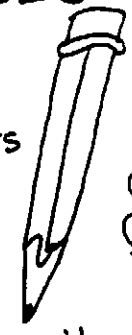
Flower Fun!

You need:


Sturdy paper large enough to cover your face

crayons or markers

tape

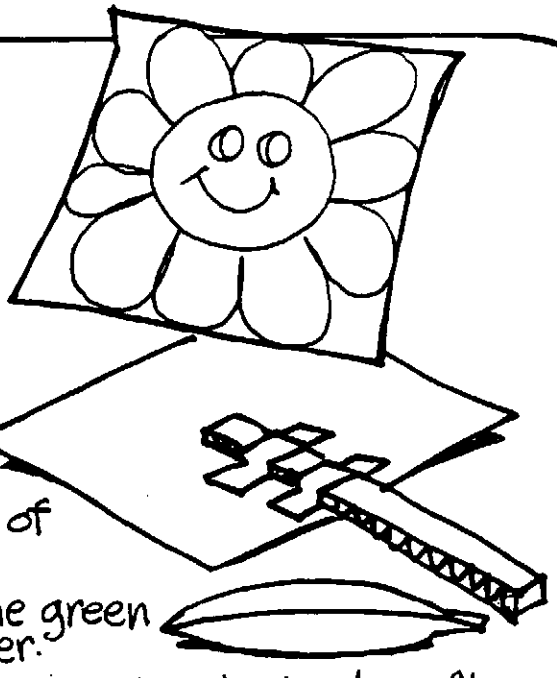

pencil

green construction paper

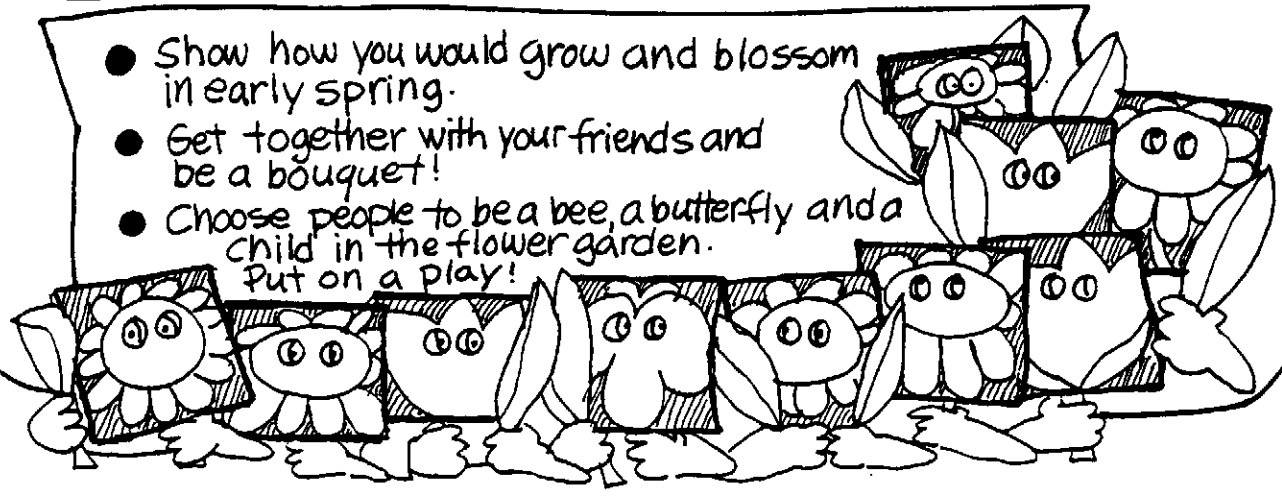
scissors

Cardboard strip 2" wide and a little longer than your paper.

You do:



1. Draw a flower face that covers the paper.
2. Poke eye holes with the pencil. (Measure with your fingers to see how far apart to put the holes.)

3. Tape the cardboard handle to the back of the flower.
4. Cut leaves from the green construction paper.
5. Hold your flower mask and leaves and pretend you're a flower!

- Show how you would grow and blossom in early spring.
- Get together with your friends and be a bouquet!
- Choose people to be a bee, a butterfly and a child in the flower garden. Put on a play!