IN BRIEF



The Emperor of Gardenia is a fun story about a boy who declares himself to be the ruler of his backyard. This pack is inspired by that tale, and it's full of activities related to plants and gardening. We hope they will encourage pupils to try growing plants of their own!

1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- Young readers will discover lots of new and exciting words in this month's issue of ***Storytime*** – and the **Storytime Glossary** will tell them what they all mean! Encourage pupils to write down the different words they discover. Can they use them in a sentence, or think of other words with similar meanings?

- What do your pupils know about gardens? The **Class Discussion Sheet** has questions to get them talking about how plants grow and what gardens can contribute to our lives. They could also draw the plants they'd most like to grow. If your school has a space where plants can be grown, your students might even be inspired to start a class garden.

- The **Reading Comprehension Sheet** introduces the concepts of *possessives*, *similes* and *collective nouns*. Can your pupils come up with a list of other examples? Create a poster they can contribute to! Similes are great for getting creative with – encourage students to invent original examples of their own.

- Stories don't make sense if things don't happen in the right order – can your students reorder the jumbled events on the **Story Sequencing Sheet** should be read? Remember, they should be encouraged to check back to the original story if they aren't sure of anything.

- The **Storyboard** sheet encourages children to retell the tale of 'Emperor Max' in their own words. They don't need to include every detail, but can they summarise the main points of the tale?

Continued on page 2...

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- There are lots of different words which are used to talk about plants and gardening. Can students answer the questions on the **Complete the 'Word Flower'!** sheet and write the correct answers on the petals? This is a great way to test their knowledge of gardening,

- The garden in 'The Emperor of Gardenia' is an amazing place, but can your pupils imagine an even more enchanting one? On the **My Magic Garden** page they can write their own tale about a lush, magical place where anything they imagine could grow. How would they find it, and what wonders would they find there?

- The **Grow a Sentence!** page has several sentences with missing words. Pupils should complete them using the words listed at the bottom of the sheet...

- The **Pick Your Tools!** sheet has several sentences which can be completed by choosing the right tool from the list... Can students work out what goes where?

2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS

- Plants grow very differently to humans.! **The Life Cycle of a Plant!** lists the different stages these amazing living things go through, but they are out of order! What sequence should they go in?

- There are many different types of garden in the world! The **Gardens for Everyone!** sheet lists seven different types – can your pupils match each one with the right picture? Ask your class which kinds they have visited.

3. MATHS LESSON IDEA

- Maths can be very useful when gardening! **The Multiplication Patch** shows different garden beds with plants in them. See if your students can work out how many are in each by multiplying the number of rows by the number of columns..

Continued on page 3...

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

4. ART LESSON IDEA

- Flowers can brighten up anyone's day, and the **Make a Garden of Kindness!** activity will brighten up your classroom. To complete it, pupils will need a pen or pencil, squares of coloured paper, scissors or snips, and round stickers to go in the centre of each blossom.

  Making a flower has several steps and involves a lot of folding, so pupils may need some help from you or each other help them complete their flowers correctly.

  The thing that really makes this activity magical is that students can write positive messages on their folded flower 'seeds' before giving them to classmates. Then, you can stick up the flowers on the classroom walls as colourful and positive decorations! We hope you all have fun.

5. PSHE LESSON IDEA

- Gardening can have a positive effect on our peace of mind and mental health, and starting a class garden can be a positive and educational activity for your students. All you need is some seeds and some basic equipment. The Royal Horticultural Society has great advice for getting started on their website:

  https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/school-gardening

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

Look up challenging words or phrases from the magazine in this section!

Alfa and Beto (Page 6)

- **Containers:** objects for putting things in
- **With a spring in his step:** walking in a happy, bouncy way
- **Attached:** joined or fastened to something
- **Rectangular:** shaped like a rectangle
- **Atlases:** books filled with maps
- **Emotion:** strong feeling of some kind
- **Spellbound:** so amazed that they don't pay attention to anything else
- **Journalist:** person who writes news stories
- **Clopping:** walking while making a 'clop' sound with their hooves
- **Heaved:** lifted with great effort
- **Suspicious:** not trusting
- **Innovative:** new and original
- **Documentary:** film about real events

Chip's Bug (Page 12)

- **Bug:** mistake in computer code
- **Coding:** writing computer code
- **Program:** set of instructions for a computer
- **Webcam:** camera attached to a computer
- **Monitor:** screen for a computer
- **Digital:** created by or using electronics
- **Idiot:** person who isn't very clever
- **Fans:** spinning devices to keep things cool
- **Shut down:** turn off
- **Scrolled:** moved text on a screen
- **Punctuation:** symbols that are used to divide text into easily understood sections
- **Insults:** mean or rude things meant to hurt someone's feelings

The Emperor of Gardenia (Page 17)

- **Emperor:** ruler of an empire
- **Announced:** said in a loud and formal way
- **Delighted:** very happy
- **Declared:** said loudly and confidently
- **Empire:** a large group of states controlled by one ruler
- **Surveyed:** looked at something carefully
- **Domain:** an area ruled by someone
- **Thriving:** doing well and growing
- **Expanding:** growing bigger
- **Flourishing:** growing healthily
- **Advisor:** person who gives advice to ruler
- **Ammunition:** things used to fight with
- **Repelled:** driven away
- **Disputes:** arguments
- **Accusation:** statement saying he did something wrong
- **Cordial:** polite

The Prince and the Pauper (Page 21)

- **Pauper:** very poor person
- **Beg:** ask for something you need
- **Rickety:** wobbly or shaky
- **Offal:** waste parts from animals
- **Corridors:** large hallways in building
- **Fencing:** play-fighting with swords
- **Tucked Tom into bed:** put sheets and blankets around Tom in bed
- **Bunting:** strings holding little flags
- **Crowned:** made king by having crown placed on head
- **Cathedral:** large, grand church

Continued on page 2...

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

Mulan Drops In (Page 30)

- **Armour:** protective suit made to be worn in battle
- **Youngsters:** young people
- **Skidded:** slid across the ground
- **Sneered:** said in a mean way
- **Heroine:** female hero
- **Shed:** small, simple building, often used for storing tools
- **Sawing:** cutting with a saw
- **Figure out:** work out how to do something
- **Zipped:** moved quickly
- **Popped:** kicked down to make skateboard jump into the air
- **Tumble:** turn over and over
- **Soared:** flew

The Goanna's Poison (Page 32)

- **Terrified:** very scared
- **Possessed:** owned
- **Lair:** home of a wild animal
- **Chief:** leader of a group of people
- **Defeat:** beat in a fight or contest
- **Cleverness:** intelligence
- **Slithered:** moved on his belly
- **Horizon:** line where the sky appears to meet the land or water
- **Menacing:** frightening-seeming
- **Outrageous:** shocking
- **Muffled:** unclear and hard to hear

The Coyote and the Turtle (Page 37)

- **Ventured:** went somewhere new or risky
- **Meadow:** grassy, open field
- **Grunted:** said in a low, rough way
- **Refreshing:** making them feel better
- **Gobbled:** ate quickly and hungrily
- **Wriggly:** moving in a twisty, squirmy way
- **Rays:** beams of light from the sun
- **Shell:** hard, protective armour on turtle
- **Exhausted:** very tired
- **Threat:** frightening warning
- **Pretended:** acted as if something was true
- **Hurled:** threw

The Legend of King Gesar (Page 41)

- **Invaded:** entered by force
- **Demons:** mythical evil creatures
- **Heavens:** sky
- **Buddhas:** Wise and peaceful spiritual beings in Buddhism
- **Delicacies:** special tasty treats
- **Immune to:** not able to be affected by
- **Guardian:** person who protects something
- **Destiny:** special purpose in life that must come true
- **Steeds:** horses
- **Plague:** cause trouble in

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

gardening! Plants are amazing, and gardens can produce food, beautify a place and provide a home for birds and insects. What do your pupils know about gardening?

1. What do you think plants need to grow?

2. What jobs do bees and insects do in a garden?

3. What fruits or vegetables would you love to grow at school or at home? Why?

4. How can gardening help us take care of the planet?

PLAN YOUR GARDEN

What three plants would you like to grow in a garden?

Draw them in the boxes below.

NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Find the *possessive*, the *simile* and the *collective noun!*

> Wearing his dad's purple bathrobe and a tinfoil crown, Max stood on the patio steps and surveyed his kingdom like a Roman Emperor.
>
> The Tomato Republic was thriving, and the Carrot Colonies were expanding. The Strawberry Fields were flourishing. The only thing which worried Max was the Lettuce Lands. They were under attack by an army of slugs.

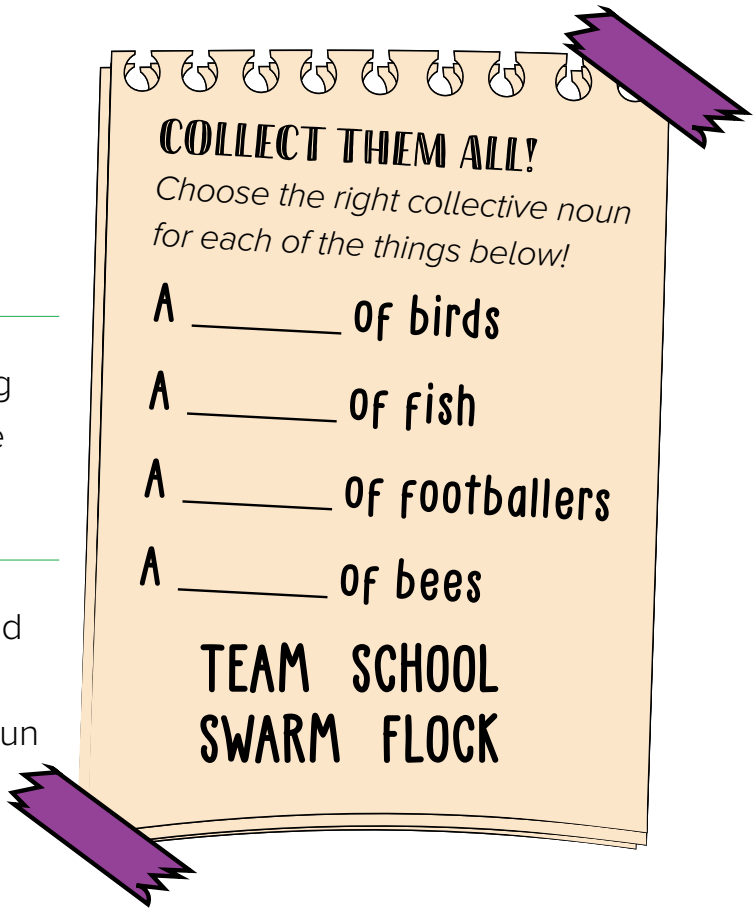
1. A *possessive* is a word which is used to show who something belongs to. (It usually has an 's' after it.) What is the possessive in the first sentence of the extract?

_____

2. A *simile* describes something as being like something else. What is the simile in the first sentence?

_____

3. A *collective noun* is a word that is used for a group of people, creatures or things. Can you spot the collective noun in the last sentence of the extract?



NAME _____ CLASS _____

ANSWERS: 1. 'Dad's'. 2. Like a Roman emperor' is a simile. 3. 'Army' is a collective noun.
Collect Them All! – 'A flock of birds', 'A school of fish', 'A team of footballers', 'A swarm of bees'.

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

Has Sir Barks-a-Lot mixed up the events of this month's tale? Sort them out by numbering the parts below in the order in which they should be read!

But then, Mrs Thompson complained that Max's pumpkin vines had come into her garden and grown all over her garden gnome!	
The boy named himself 'Maximus the Great' and surveyed his land while wearing a homemade crown and his dad's purple bathrobe.	
But then, Sir Timmy reminded Max that Mrs Thompson was an old lady. Max decided to be kind to her instead.	
The next day, she posted a box of chocolates and a nice thank-you note through the front door. Max was delighted!	
Unfortunately, the dog wasn't interested in slugs, so he asked his neighbour, Sir Timmy, to help. Timmy put down organic slug pellets.	
They left the gnome on Mrs Thompson's step with a nice note saying that Gardenia wanted to have peace with her	
Max wasn't happy about moving to his new house – but then he saw its huge garden. He declared it was the 'Empire of Gardenia!	
Maximus the Great's next job was to write laws for his land! He put them on a whiteboard in his headquarters – the garden shed.	
Sir Timmy snipped the pumpkin vines that went into Mrs Thompson's garden, and he and Max freed her garden gnome.	
His empire was doing well, but the Lettuce Lands were being invaded by slugs! He sent his dog, Sir Barks-a-Lot, to deal with them.	
At first, Maximus was furious that Mrs Thompson would say such things about him. He decided to declare war!	

NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

STORYBOARD

Tell the epic tale of Emperor Max in your own words below! The pictures from the story will remind you about what happened to him...

1



2



3



4

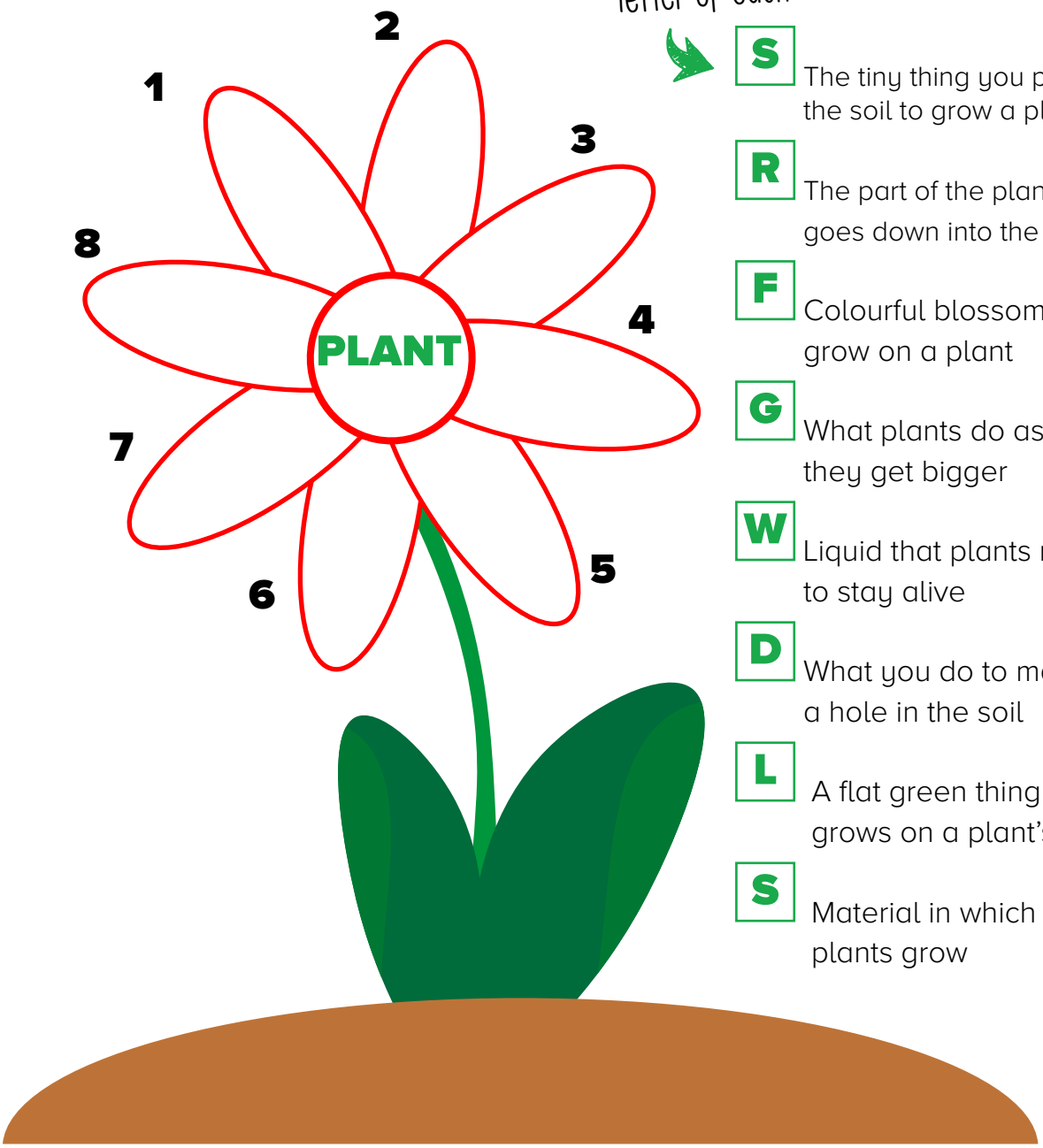


NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

COMPLETE THE 'WORD FLOWER'!

Can you work out which words go on each petal of this word flower?



We've given you the first letter of each word as a clue!

S The tiny thing you put in the soil to grow a plant

R The part of the plant that goes down into the soil

F Colourful blossoms that grow on a plant

G What plants do as they get bigger

W Liquid that plants need to stay alive

D What you do to make a hole in the soil

L A flat green thing that grows on a plant's stem

S Material in which plants grow

Can you think of any more gardening words to add?

ANSWERS: 1. seed, 2. root, 3. flowers, 4. grow, 5. water, 6. dig, 7. leaf, 8. soil.

NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

MY MAGIC GARDEN

Write a short story about discovering a secret garden. How did you find it? What grows there? Are the plants magical?

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

NAME _____ CLASS _____

GROW A SENTENCE!

You can 'grow' a sentence by adding different words to it! Can you complete the sentences below by picking words from the lists at the bottom?

A. The worm _____ (verb) _____ (adverb) through the _____ (noun) .

B. The plant _____ (verb) and _____ (adjective) leaves appear on its _____ (noun) .

C. The bee _____ (verb) through the _____ (noun) and lands _____ (adverb) on the _____ (noun) .

D. The gardener _____ (verb) the _____ (adjective) compost on his _____ (noun) .

E. I _____ (adverb) walk over the _____ (adjective) grass and pick a _____ (adjective) apple from a tree.

NOUNS	VERBS	ADJECTIVES	ADVERBS
soil	wriggles	smelly	gently
flower	grows	wet	slowly
garden	puts	green	happily
stem	flies	shiny	
air			

ANSWERS: A. wriggles, slowly, soil. B. grows, green, stem. C. flies, air, gently, flower. D. puts, smelly, garden. E. happily, wet, shiny.

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

NAME _____ CLASS _____

PICK YOUR TOOLS

When you do gardening, you need the right equipment! Answer the questions below by picking the right item from the list.

A. "I need something to dig out weeds with!"
"Get a _____ !"

B. "What can I use to water the plants?"
"Use the _____ !"

C. "Oh, no! What will help keep the snails away from my lettuces?"
"Try some _____ !"

D. "What tool should I use to dig the soil?"
"The _____ is perfect for that!"

E. "What should I add to the soil to help plants grow?"
"_____ , of course!"

F. "I need something to rake the soil with before I plant things!"
"You obviously need a _____ !"

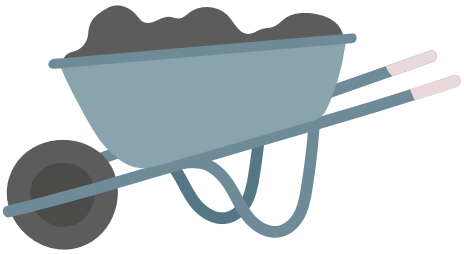
G. "What should I put in the soil to grow plants?"
"Get a packet of _____ !"

H. "I need to trim my rose bushes!"
"Here, use my _____ !"

I. "My hands get dirty when I do gardening!"
"You should wear _____ !"

1. SPADE
2. TROWEL
3. GLOVES
4. COMPOST
5. SNAIL REPELLENT
6. SEEDS
7. CLIPPERS
8. WATERING CAN
9. RAKE

Do you know what this is?



It's a _____ !

ANSWERS: A. 2, B. 8, C. 5, D. 1, E. 4, F. 9, G. 6, H. 7, I. 3. **Bonus Question:** It's a wheelbarrow!

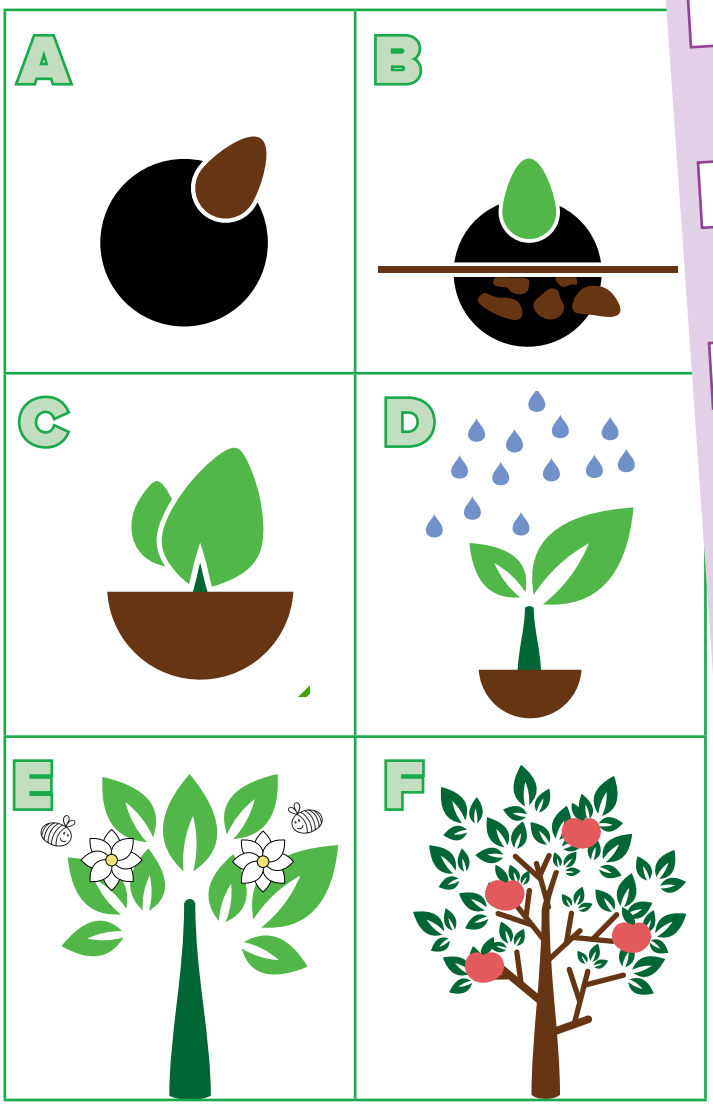
© storytimemagazine.com 2025

NAME _____ CLASS _____

THE LIFE CYCLE OF A PLANT



The pictures on the left show the different stages of a plant's growth. Can you match each picture with the correct description on the right?



- ☐ The young plant is watered regularly and continues to grow, forming a STEM and more leaves.
- ☐ The sprout grows its FIRST LEAVES, which help it soak up sunlight and grow stronger.
- ☐ A tiny SEED contains everything it needs to begin its life.
- ☐ The pollinated flowers become FRUIT, full of seeds that will grow more plants!
- ☐ The plant grows more leaves and FLOWERS! Bees and insects come to POLLINATE the flowers.
- ☐ The seed is PLANTED IN SOIL, where it can begin to sprout. A small SHOOT pushes up through the soil.

ANSWERS: In order, the definitions should be matched with D, C, A, F, E, B.

© storytimemagazine.com 20

NAME _____ CLASS _____

GARDENS FOR EVERYONE!

Match the kinds of gardens with the pictures at the bottom of the page.

1. BOTANICAL GARDENS

Purpose: To study and display a wide variety of plants
Features: Plants from different ecosystems around the world
Look out for: Tropical greenhouses!

2. ZEN GARDENS

Purpose: Meditation and peace
Features: Rocks, sand, water and a few plants
Look out for: Raked sand patterns that represent waves.

3. MEADOW GARDENS

Purpose: Support pollinators like bees and butterflies
Features: Local flowers and plants, which are easy to maintain
Look out for: Local wildlife!

4. VERTICAL GARDENS

Purpose: Add plants to urban spaces.
Features: Plants that have been made to grow on vertical walls.
Watch out for: The clever ways in which gardens are built into buildings!

5. COTTAGE GARDENS

Purpose: Mix of beauty and usefulness
Features: Colourful flowers, herbs and edible plants
Look out for: Garden gnomes and other fun decorations!

6. FORMAL GARDENS

Purpose: Beauty and order
Features: Symmetry, trimmed hedges and straight paths
Look out for: Cool patterns formed by the plants.

7. DESERT GARDENS

Purpose: Grow drought-tolerant plants
Features: Cacti, rocks, gravel and succulent plants
Look out for: Dry-climate plants that you might not see anywhere else!



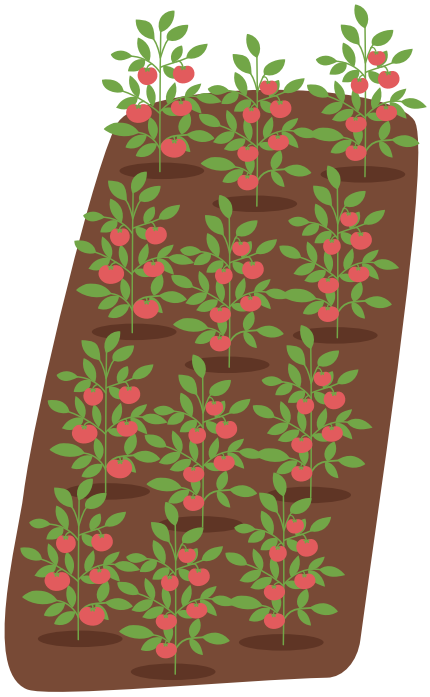
ANSWERS: 1. E, 2. G, 3. B, 4. A, 5. D, 6. F, 7. C.

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

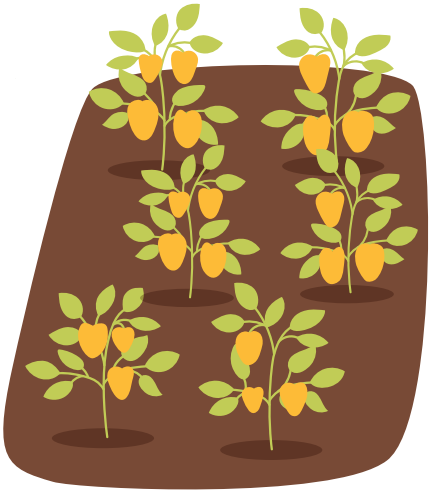
NAME _____ CLASS _____

THE MULTIPLICATION PATCH

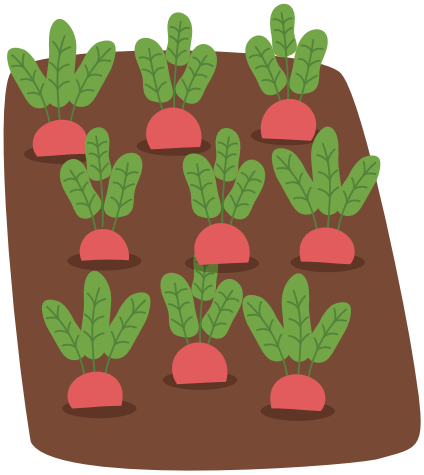
How many plants are in the garden beds below? Work it out by multiplying the number of rows in each bed by the number of columns!



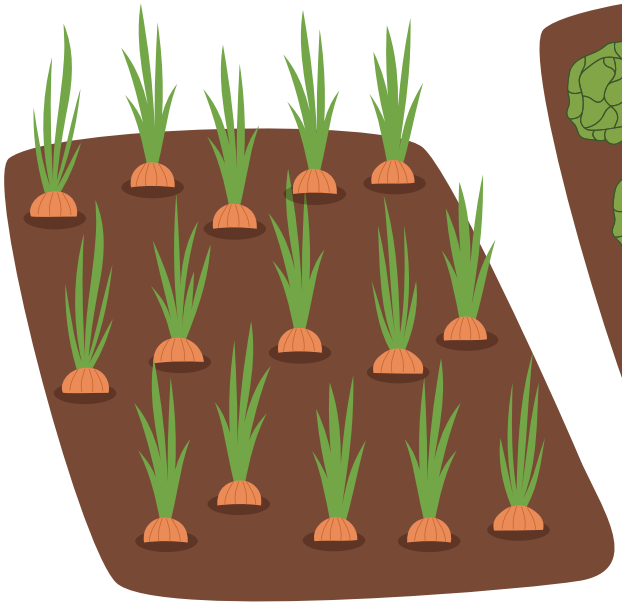
A. **4 x 3 =** ☐



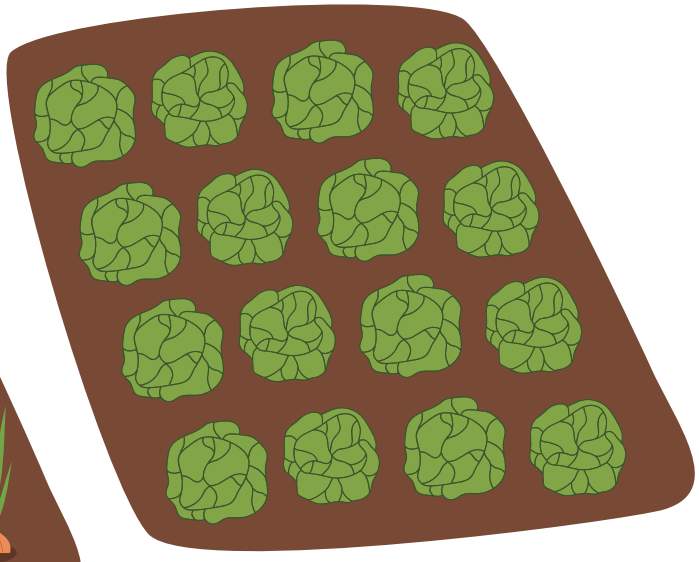
B. **3 x 2 =** ☐



C. **3 x 3 =** ☐



D. **3 x 5 =** ☐



E. **4 x 4 =** ☐

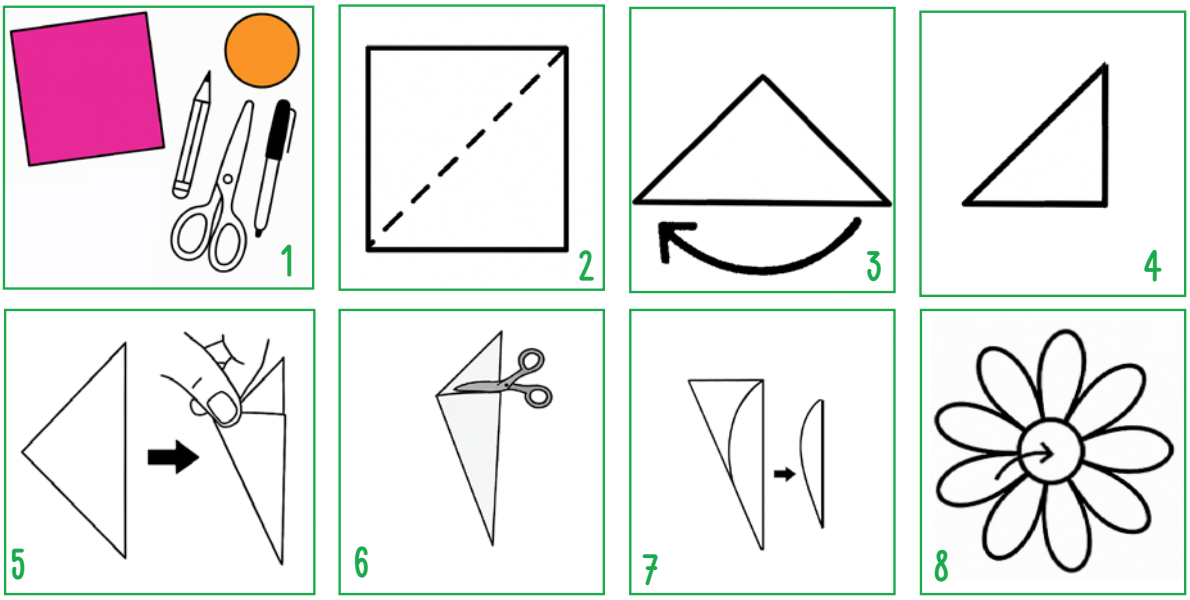
ANSWERS: A. 12, B. 6, C. 9, D. 15, E. 16.

NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2025

MAKE A GARDEN OF KINDNESS!

Letting people know that you like and value them is a wonderful gift that can help friendship blossom like a flower! Follow the steps to create 'seeds of kindness' that you can give to members of your class. They open into flowers, which can be hung up in your classroom...



1 You will need a square piece of coloured paper, scissors, a pencil, a pen and a large round coloured sticker.

2 Fold the square of paper in half diagonally, making a triangle.

3 Fold that triangle in half again, making a smaller triangle.

4 Fold that triangle in half one more time!

5 Hold the triangle so the hardest corner is facing down and the longest side is on the right. Fold the lower short side of the triangle over so it lines up with the longest side.

6 This will make a little triangle at the top! Snip it off with scissors!

7 Now, draw a curved line (see illustration). Don't let it go all the way down to the bottom of the triangle! Cut along the curved line to create your flower 'seed'. Carefully write a nice message or positive words on the 'seed'.

8 The triangle is now a 'seed of kindness'! Give your seed to someone nearby so they can read the message and then unfold the triangle. It will unfold into a pretty flower shape! Add a round sticker to the centre of the flower. Display the flowers everybody has made on the classroom wall!

© storytimemagazine.com 2025