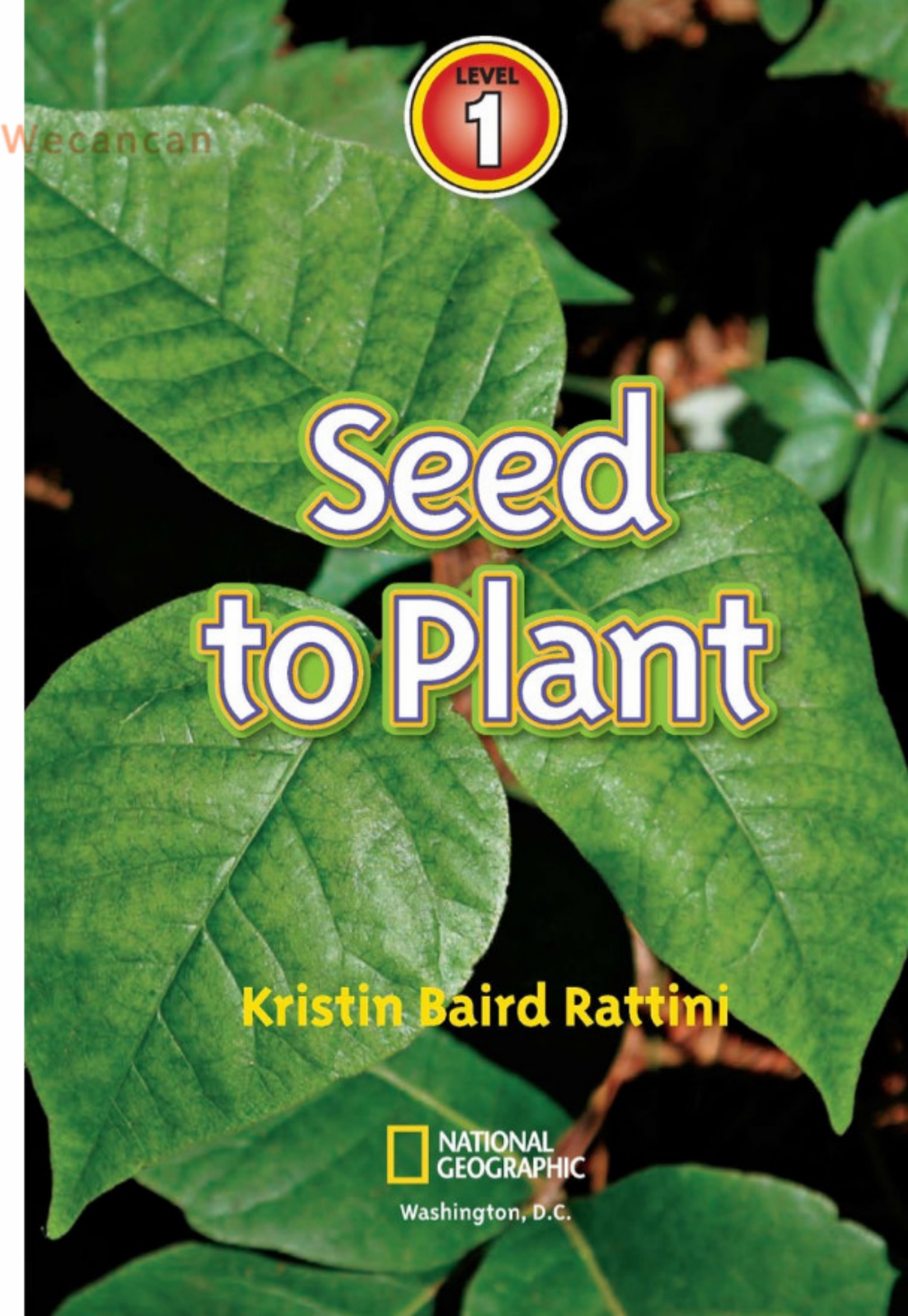
公众号：Wecancan

National Geographic Readers: Seed to Plant

By: Kristin Baird Rattini

Take a magical journey from seed pollination to plant growth, learning about what plants need to thrive.

5-7	5-20 mins	400L	2.5
Age Range	Length	Lexile ® Measure	AR Level



What Is a Plant?

A plant is a living thing. It stays in one place. But it grows and changes, just like you.


white water lily


fern


tangerine tree

Plants can be big or small. Some have flowers. Others also grow fruit. Trees are plants, too.


orchid

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Q How is a tree like a big dog?

A They both have a lot of bark.





A farmer in his cotton field

Some plants can be used to make clothing. Your T-shirt is made from cotton plants.

Plants are a big part of our world. Farmers grow fruits and vegetables. These plants give us food.



A bear in a tree

Other plants are cozy homes for animals.

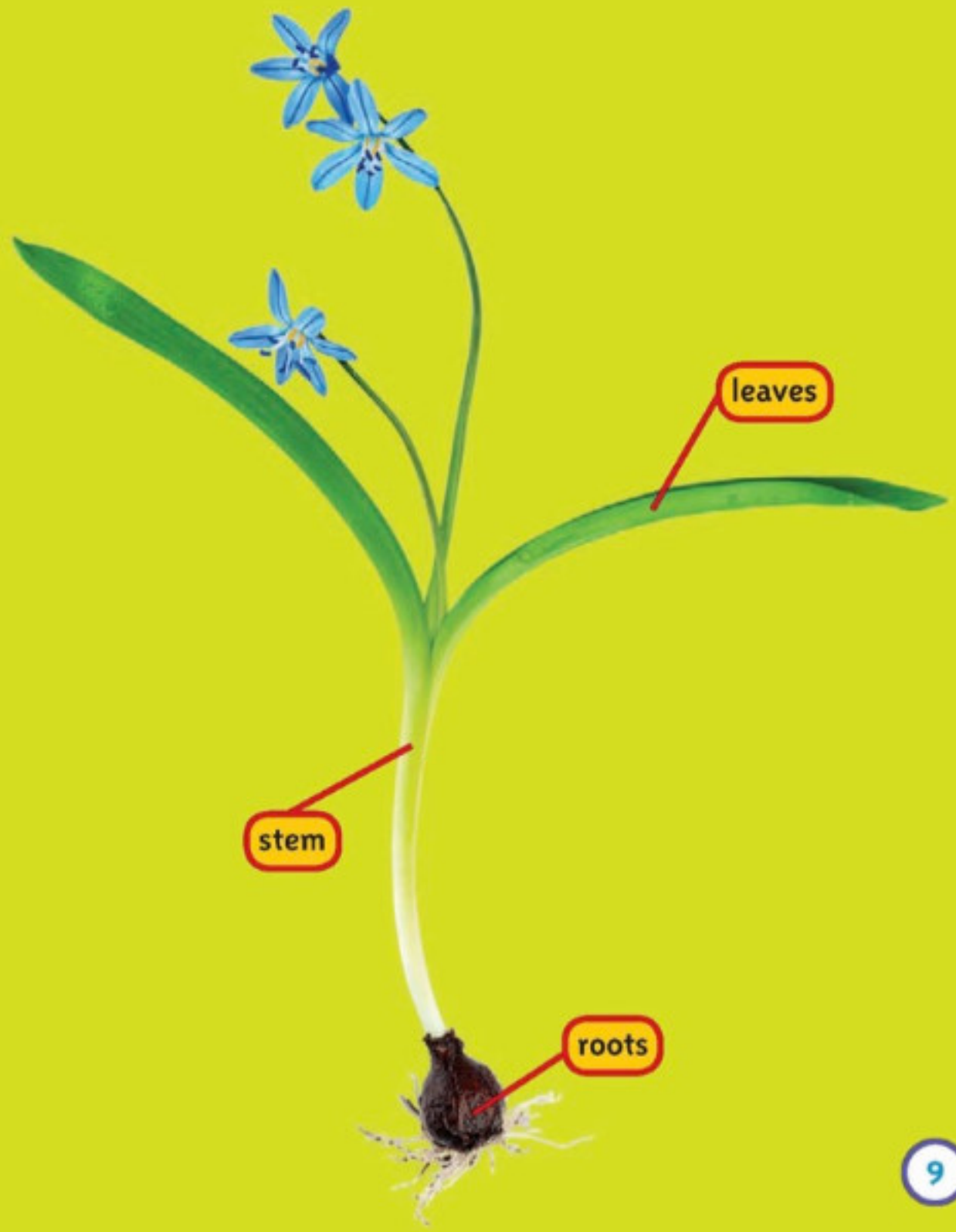
Parts of a Plant

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You can use your body to remember the parts of a plant.



Roots hold the plant in the ground. The stem helps the plant stand up tall. Leaves soak up the sunlight.



How Does a Plant Begin?



1. Let's dig in! Most plants start as a seed.



2. The seed splits open. A shoot pushes out. This is called germination (jur-muh-NAY-shun).



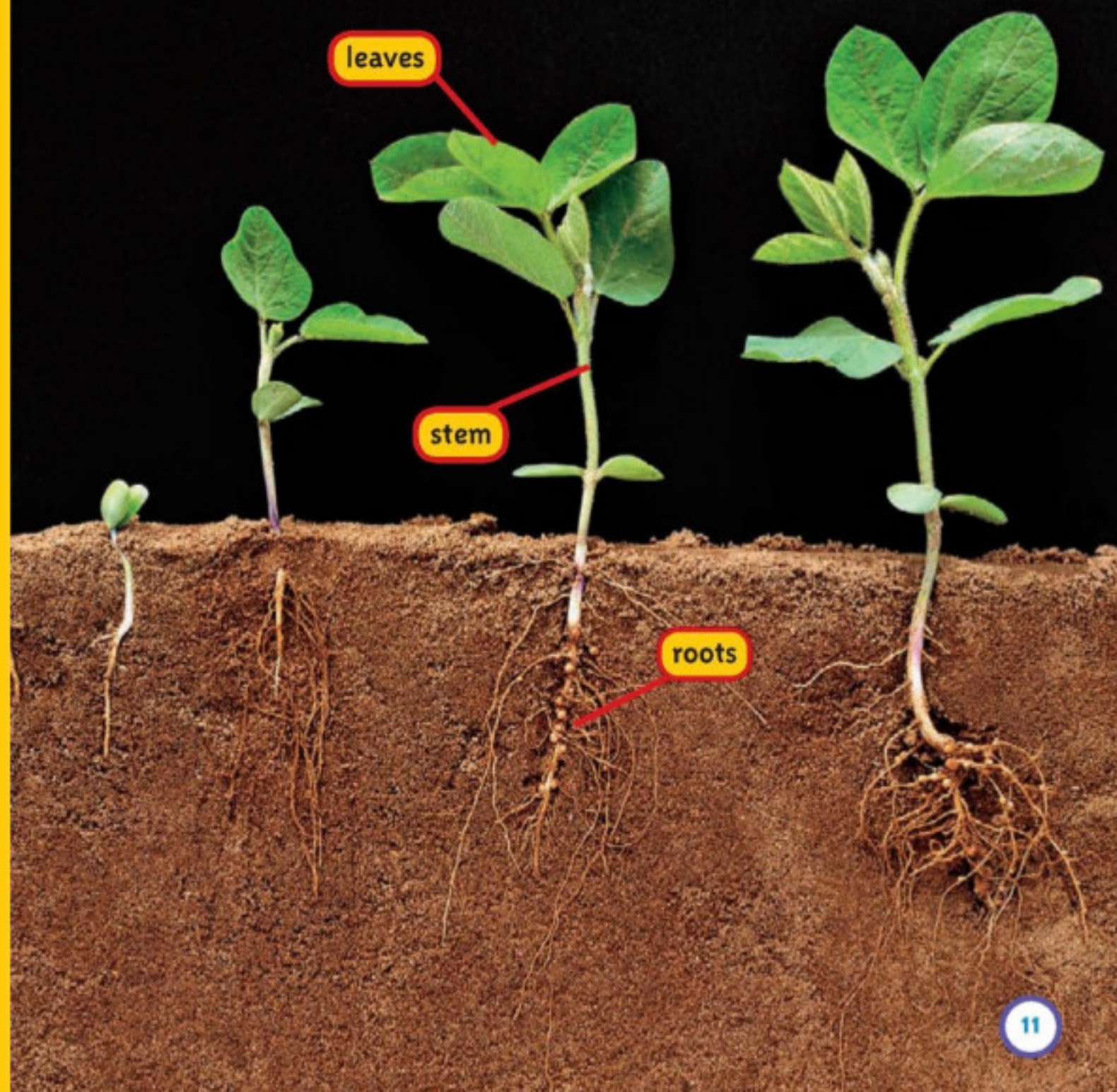
3. A new plant is beginning!

Buzz Words

GERMINATION: The sprouting of a new plant from a seed

SEEDLING: A young plant

A seedling starts to grow.
Roots reach down into the soil.
A stem pushes up into the air.



A Plant Grows

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Watering a garden helps it grow.

Just like you, a plant grows bigger and bigger. The roots spread out and down into the soil. The stem gets thicker and stronger. More leaves and branches grow.

Buzz Word

SOIL: The top layer of earth, which plants grow in



What Do Plants Need?

Plants need these things in order to grow:

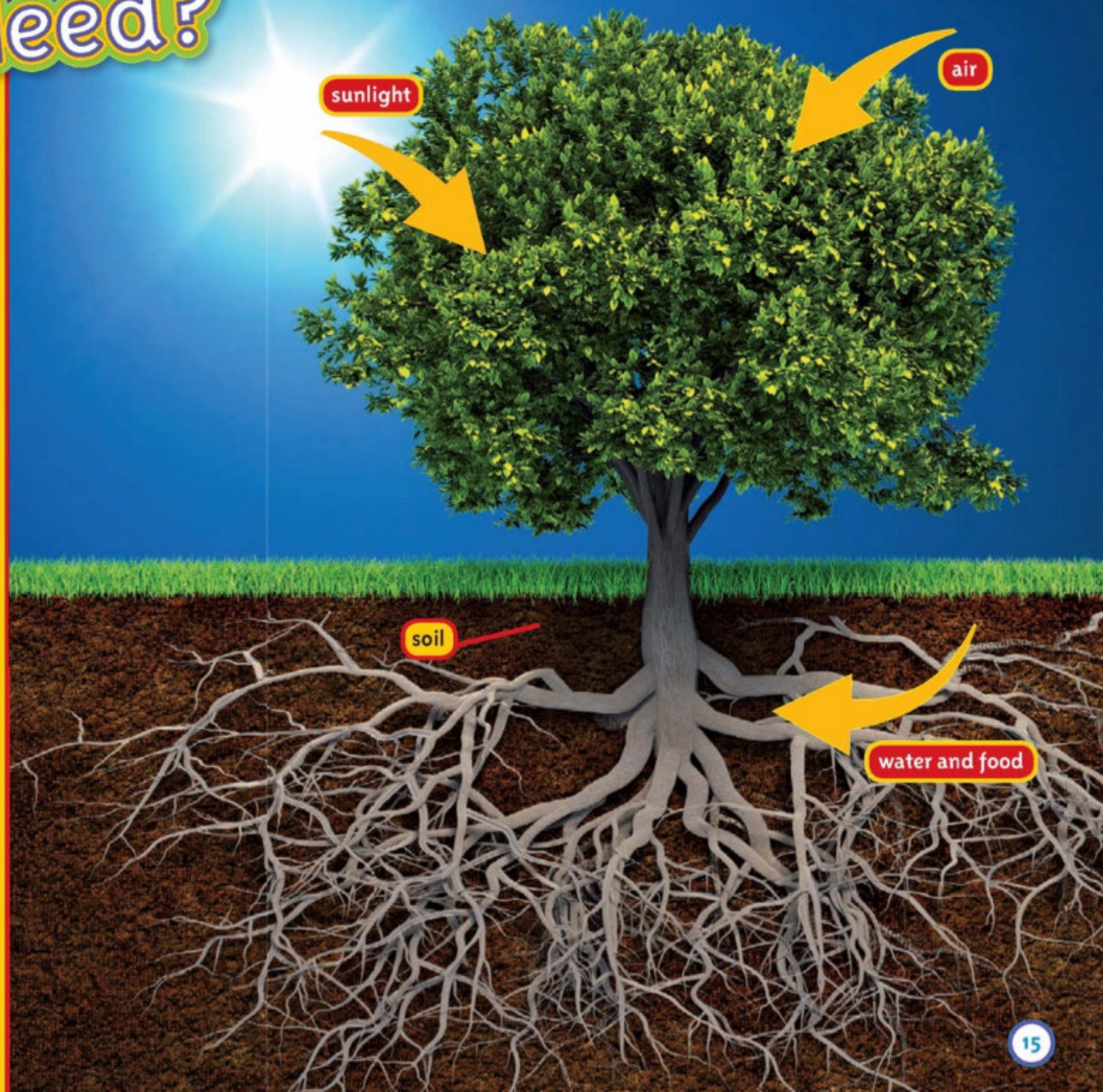
- ✓ Soil
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Sunlight
- ✓ Air
- ✓ Space

Water and some food come from the soil. The roots soak them up.

Sunlight and air enter through the leaves. Plants use them to make more food. Plants also need space to grow.

Q How does a flower ride a bike?

A With its petals!



6 Fun Plant Facts

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1



This palm tree seed can weigh as much as a fourth grader. It's the heaviest seed in the world.

2



Scrub-a-dub in the tub! Plants are used in many soaps and shampoos.

3



The paper for this book was made from trees.

4



One sunflower can make as many as 1,000 seeds!

5



Bamboo grows the fastest of any plant. It can grow as tall as a three-year-old kid in one day!

6



The tallest living tree is taller than the Statue of Liberty, in New York, U.S.A.

Flowers Bloom

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Q What did one flower say to another?

A Hi, bud!

Many plants grow flowers.



They start as a bump called a bud.



The bud slowly opens. Petals gently unfold.

Surprise! It's a flower.

Sticky Pollen

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Flowers make a sticky powder called pollen.

Pollen sticks to birds and bees when they fly from flower to flower.



Then the pollen rubs off on other flowers. This is called pollination (POL-uh-NAY-shun). It helps flowers make seeds!

Buzz Word

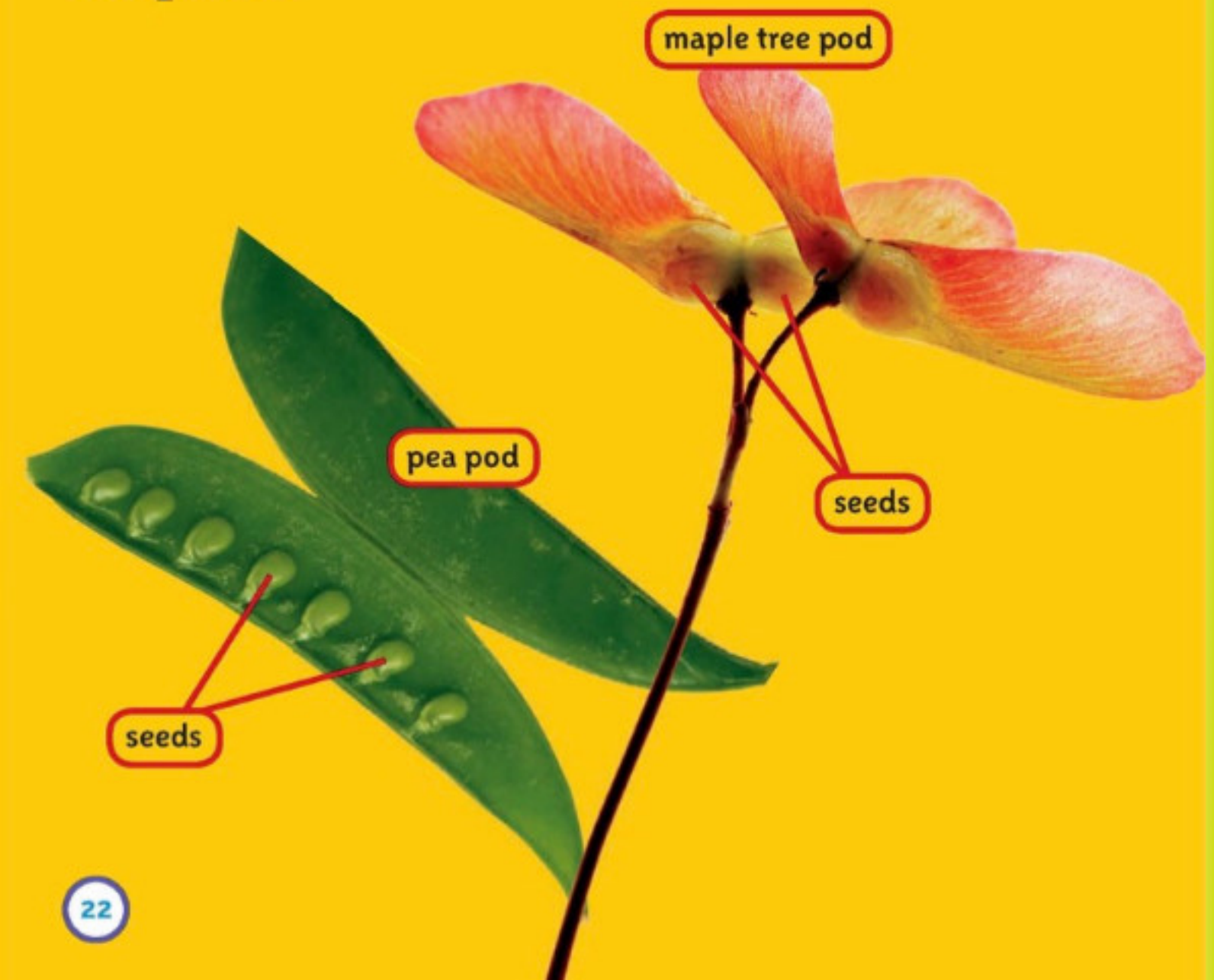
POLLINATION: The moving of pollen from one flower to another. This makes seeds grow.

Seeds

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Plants keep seeds in different places.

Many plants grow a case around the seeds. The case is called a pod. Peas and maple tree seeds grow in pods.



Q What does a plant say when it doesn't want company?

A Leaf me alone.

Orange seeds are different. Their seeds are on the inside.





But strawberry seeds are on the outside.

Now the seeds
take a trip.
Some float
on the wind.
Others are
carried away
by animals.

The seeds
fall to the
ground.
Soon they
sprout, or germinate.
A new plant begins.



A bird carries a berry with a seed inside.



A squirrel holds a large seed.

Dandelion seeds scatter in the wind.

Pass the Plants, Please!

People and animals eat plants to stay healthy. How many plants did you eat today?



A panda eats a bamboo plant.



Watermelon is a fruit that comes from a plant.

Make Your Garden Grow

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You can grow your own bean plant.

Ask a grown-up for help.

You'll need:

- ✓ One lima bean seed
- ✓ A cup of water
- ✓ A 4-inch flowerpot, glass jar, or paper cup
- ✓ Soil

Q What is a plant's favorite drink? **A** Root beer.



1 Soak your seed in a cup of water overnight.



2 Fill the flowerpot with soil. Push your seed down into the soil about one inch.



3 Add a little water to moisten the soil.

4 Place the pot in a warm, sunny spot. Add a little water whenever the soil gets dry. Your seedling should sprout within one week!



What in the World?

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These pictures show close-up views of things in this book. Use the hints below to figure out what's in the pictures. Answers are on page 31.



HINT: This opens into a flower.



HINT: This part of a plant takes in sunlight and air.

WORD BANK

leaf rain bee bud strawberry sunflower



HINT: This flower can make up to 1,000 seeds.



HINT: This falls and waters the plants.



HINT: This buzzes as it flies from flower to flower.



HINT: This has seeds on the outside.

Answers: 1. bud, 2. leaf, 3. sunflower, 4. rain, 5. bee, 6. strawberry



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GERMINATION: The sprouting of a new plant from a seed



POLLINATION: The moving of pollen from one flower to another. This makes seeds grow.



SEEDLING: A young plant



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