

Track 3: The Plant Life Cycle

Featured Lessons

- Introduction to the Plant Life Cycle and the Outdoor Classroom•
 - Deadheads, Fruits, and Seeds•
 - Seed Dispersal Strategies•
 - Seed Review and Fall Outdoor Fun•
- Creating a Plastic Bag Greenhouse and Getting Ready for Spring•
 - Indoor Seed Germination in Soil•
 - Plant Competition for Limited Resources•
 - Flowers•
 - Pollination•

Overview

In this track, students will learn about the life cycle of plants and trees, from seed, to sprout, to growing plant, to flowering plant, to fruit or deadhead, and back to seeds again. The track begins in the fall, when students gather dead head flowers, seed pods, or fruit in the orchard and investigate seeds. Keeping up with the changing seasons, they try out different seed dispersal strategies and learn how wind, water, and animals help seeds to travel, culminating in a fun hide-and-seek game called Squirrels and Jays. In the winter, students experiment to determine when is the right time to plant outside. In the springtime, students germinate seeds both in classroom windows and in soil, and learn about how plants compete for the resources of sun, water, and soil nutrients in an interactive game. After they have watched their plants grow, students dissect flowers and observe insects pollinating the blossoms of orchard trees and companion plants. These pollinated flowers will become fruit and deadheads containing seeds, bringing students full circle in the plant life cycle.

Encouraged Lessons from Other Tracks

Plant Parts are Tasty from the Parts of a Tree track
Bud Observation from the Caring for Orchard Trees through the Seasons Track
4 Ps: Pollinator, Predator, and Parasite from the Soils, Worms, and Insects Track

Age Range for Lessons:

These lessons are most appropriate for students between grades 2 and 6.

