With prompting and support, describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.

How to Grow a Garden

Have you ever grown plants in your own yard? You just need the right tools seeds, and space. You can grow something you can eat even if you don't have a yard.

Plan

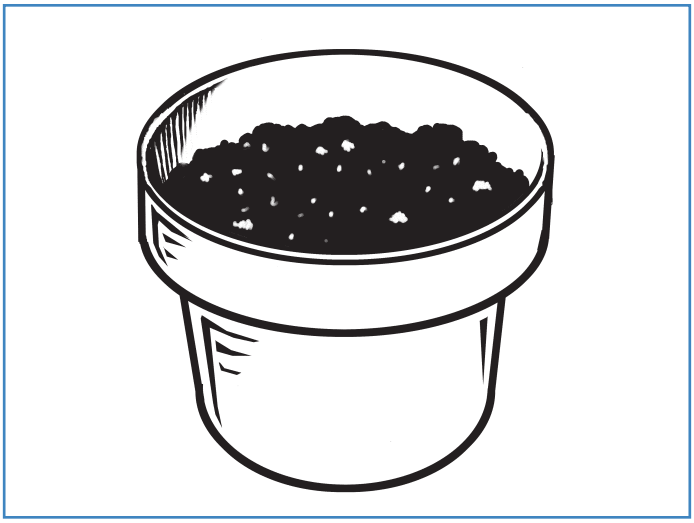
The first step is to decide where to have your garden. Ask a grown-up to help you make your plan. Find a spot in your yard or on your balcony where the plants will get plenty of sun.

The next step is to make a plan of your garden. Decide how big your garden will be, then plan where each kind of plant will be. Think of the fruits and vegetables you like to eat, and work with a grown-up to find what grows well where you live. Tomatoes, peas, beans, carrots, beets, pumpkins, strawberries and lettuce all grow well in gardens.

If you are planting a garden in your yard, work with a grown-up to clear the part of the yard. Take some string to mark out the perimeter of your garden. Put a stake in the ground at each corner and tie the string to the stakes. Clear this area of leaves and grass, or build a raised garden bed.

After you've decided what to have in the garden, mark on your plan where each kind of plant will go. Tall plants like tomatoes and peas should go on the north side of the garden so they won't block the sun for the other plants.

If you are growing a garden on your balcony, get some big pots to grow your plants in. Different types of plants can grow in the same pot. You might want to try themes for your pots. One pot could be used to grows toppings for a pizza: tomatoes, basil, oregano, and peppers. Another could be a spaghetti sauce garden pot, with a tomato plant, basil, garlic chives, oregano and parsley! Or, you could have a salad pot with lettuce, carrots, green onions, spinach, radishes and a tomato plant.



Shop

Now that you've planned your garden, it's time to buy the seeds or plants. Many fruits and vegetables grow easily from a seed, but you might have better luck starting with a seedling.

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Plant

Gather all your tools, seeds and seedlings—it's time to plant your garden! Dig a long furrow or ditch to make a row. Drop the seeds along the ditch, then spread the dirt over the seeds. You might want to plant more than one row of your favorite fruits or vegetables.

Mark the row or pot so you can tell what kind of plant is growing there. You can tape the seed pack to a stake, or write the name of the plant on a small wooden stick.

Water

After you've planted everything, your plants need water. You may not need to water your garden much if it rains a lot where you live. If there isn't much rain, you'll need to water your plants so they can keep growing.

Watch out for bugs! Some bugs and insects like ladybugs and bees are helpful and will eat other bugs or pollinate your plants, but other bugs are harmful. If you see bugs you think are harmful, ask a grown-up to help you get rid of them.

Weed

It is also important to keep weeds out of your garden. They can crowd out the plants you want in your garden. Get help from a grown-up to find out if something is a weed or a plant, and pull out any weeds.

Some fruits and vegetables, like peas, strawberries, and lettuce, will be ready to harvest earlier in the summer. Other plants like tomatoes, carrots and pumpkins will take longer to grow before they'll be ready for you to eat them.

Harvest

When you harvest the food from your garden, you may be surprised at how delicious the food is. The food you grow will help keep you strong and healthy.

Think With Me

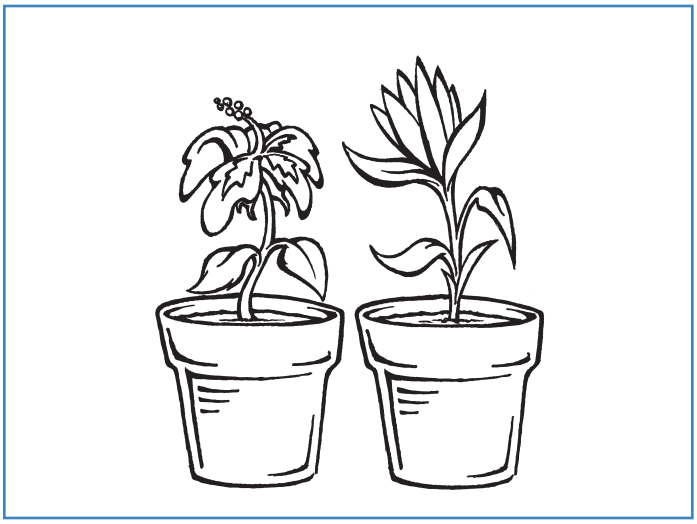
After reading the instructional text ***How to Grow a Garden*** ask and discuss the following questions.

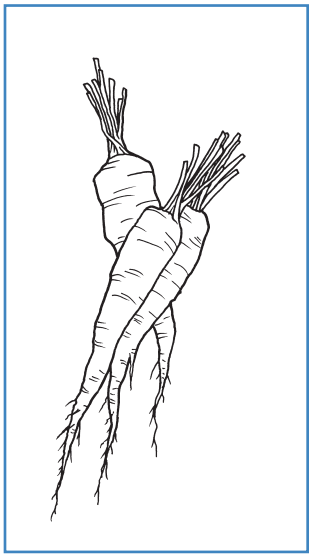
Making Connections

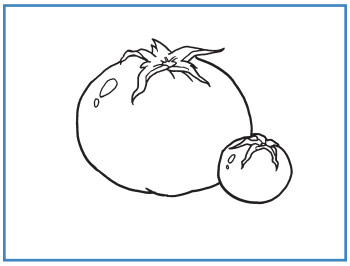
What things do you do the same whether you are growing a garden on a balcony or in the yard?

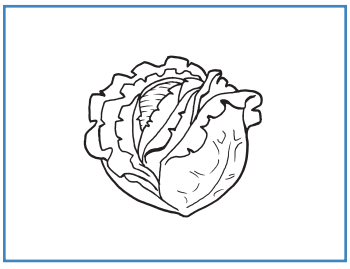
What things do you do differently?

When might you need help from a grown-up? What can you do on your own?









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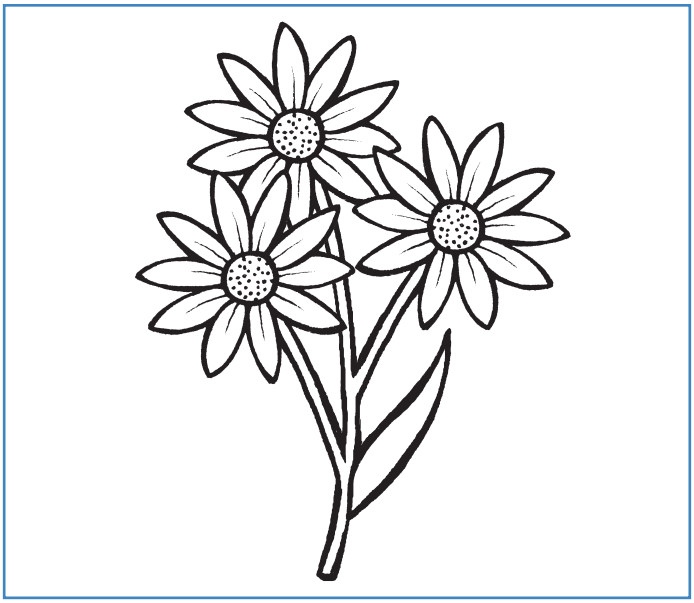
Growing Flowers



Have you ever thought about growing flowers in your yard or on your balcony? Buying flowers can be expensive, but growing them yourself can save money and bring you happiness through the spring and summer. A packet of seeds costs just a few dollars, but from one packet of seeds you can grow dozens of flowers.

To grow flowers in your yard or balcony, you first need to choose your space. Many flowers can be grown in a small area in the yard, or in a pot on your balcony. Work with a grown-up to decide where to grow your flowers. Most flowers like a lot of sun, so plan to grow your flowers in a place where they can get the sun they need.

After you've planned where to grow your flowers, you may need to prepare the soil or get the pot ready. Then, it's time to get your flowers! You can have a lot of fun planning how to put different colors of flowers together. You might choose to have a just a few colors, like purple, white and yellow. You could decide to have an explosion of color with all kinds of different flowers.

Ask a grown-up to help you plan which flowers you will grow. Some flowers grow in the springtime, and others grow all summer. If you mix together the flowers that grow at different times, you can have beautiful flowers for months! You may choose to buy some flowering plants and grow some flowers from seeds. The seed packets will usually be less expensive, but starting with small flower plants will give you instant color.

After you've planted your seeds or plants, you'll need to water them, especially if you live in an area where there isn't a lot of rain. When your flowers grow and bloom, you can cut some of them to put in a vase, or just watch them grow in the yard.

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