

Parts of a Plant

Preschool–Kindergarten

Objectives

- Students will identify the parts of a plant and how plants grow.
- Students will determine what plants need to survive.

Materials Needed

- Package of carrot seeds
- *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss
- Parts of a Plant Diagram
- Parts of a Plant Activity Sheet
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Glue



Introduction

Gather children together for circle time and give one carrot seed to each child. (Don't tell them what kind of seed it is!) Ask them to share their thoughts on what the seed will turn into after it is planted. Encourage them to make as many guesses as they want to.

Tell students you are going to read a story about a boy who has the same kind of seed they are holding. Invite them to pay close attention to how the seed changes throughout the story and what the boy does to help it grow. Encourage students to listen carefully as you read to find out what kind of seed it is!

Procedure

1. Read *The Carrot Seed*. Be careful not to reveal the title or show the book cover until after you have read the story!
2. After you have finished—and the carrot has been revealed—reread the story and invite students to repeat the phrase, "I'm afraid it won't come up!"
3. Next, ask students to think back on the story and identify what it was that the little boy did to help the carrot seed grow into a carrot (planted it in soil, watered it, cared for it, made sure it had plenty of sunlight, etc.).
4. Print out the Parts of a Plant Diagram and display it for students. Prompt students to repeat after you as you name and point to each part. Write in the name of each part as you go.

Guided/Independent Practice

1. Give each student a copy of the Parts of a Plant Activity Sheet and review the four words in the boxes at the bottom of the page: *leaves*, *roots*, *seed* and *stem*.
2. Instruct students to color the picture and to cut out the labels on the bottom of the page and glue them onto the top of the page to correctly label the parts of the plant.
3. Circulate around the room to supervise students or to provide assistance with cutting as needed.
4. Once students have finished, review the parts of the plant together by saying them aloud as students point to their diagrams.

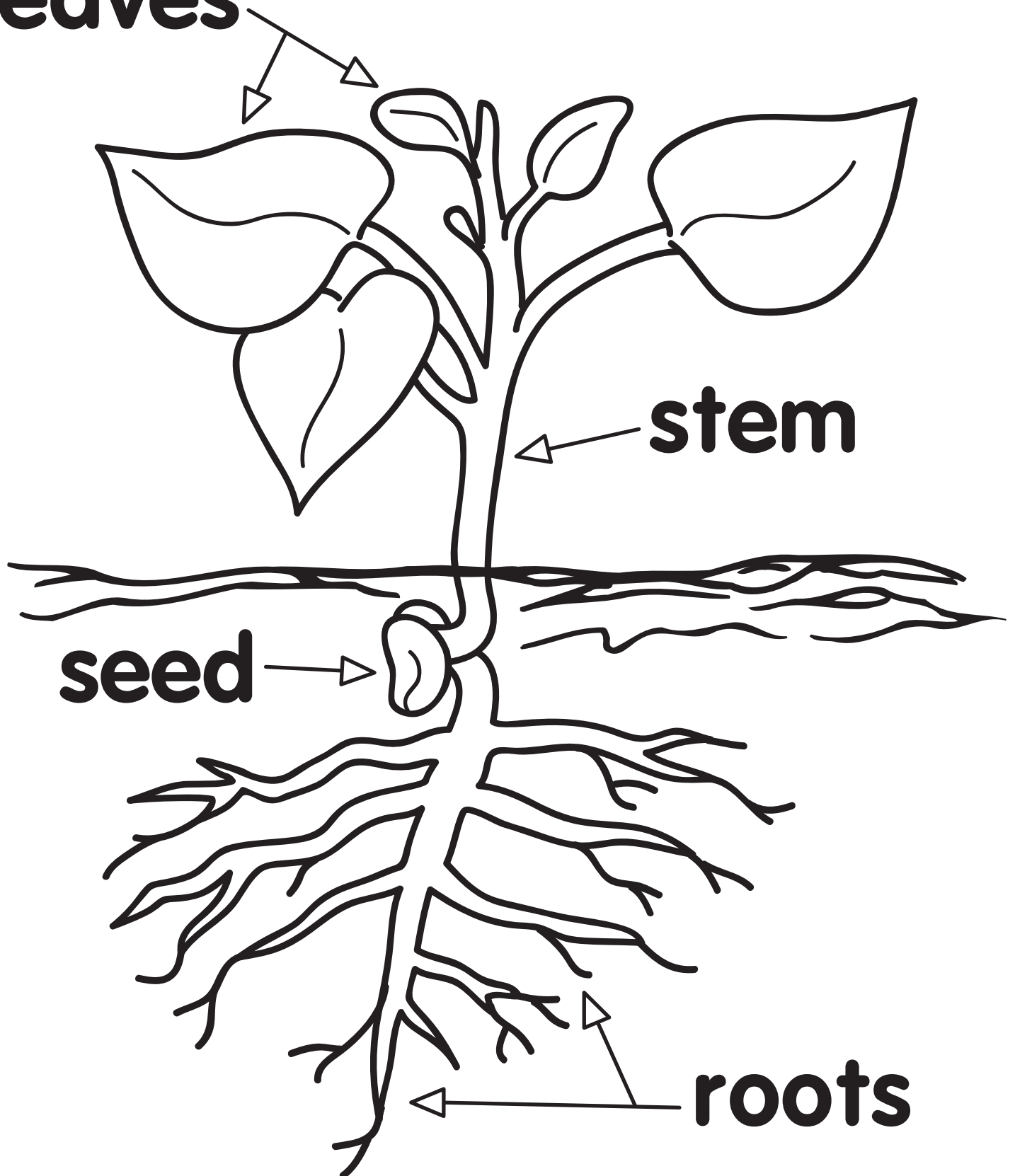
Extension Activity

To demonstrate plant growth in action, try this simple hands-on classroom experiment!

1. Give each student a resealable plastic sandwich bag, a few carrot seeds and two paper towels. (You may want to use masking tape and a marker to label each plastic bag with the student's name.)
2. Have students wet the paper towels and ring out the excess water so that the paper towels are damp.
3. Instruct students to place the seeds between the two paper towels and lay the paper towels flat inside the plastic bag. Make sure they don't seal the bags.
4. Place the bags near a window in the classroom and leave them alone for two days.
5. At the end of the second day, invite students to check on their seeds and observe what happened. (The seeds should now be sprouts with stems and leaves!) Identify the plant parts together.
6. Encourage students to take their sprouts home. They can plant the sprout in the ground or in a paper cup with potting soil to see if it will grow. If they give their plant plenty of sunlight and water, they just might grow a carrot of their own! (Results will vary.)

Parts of a Plant Diagram

leaves

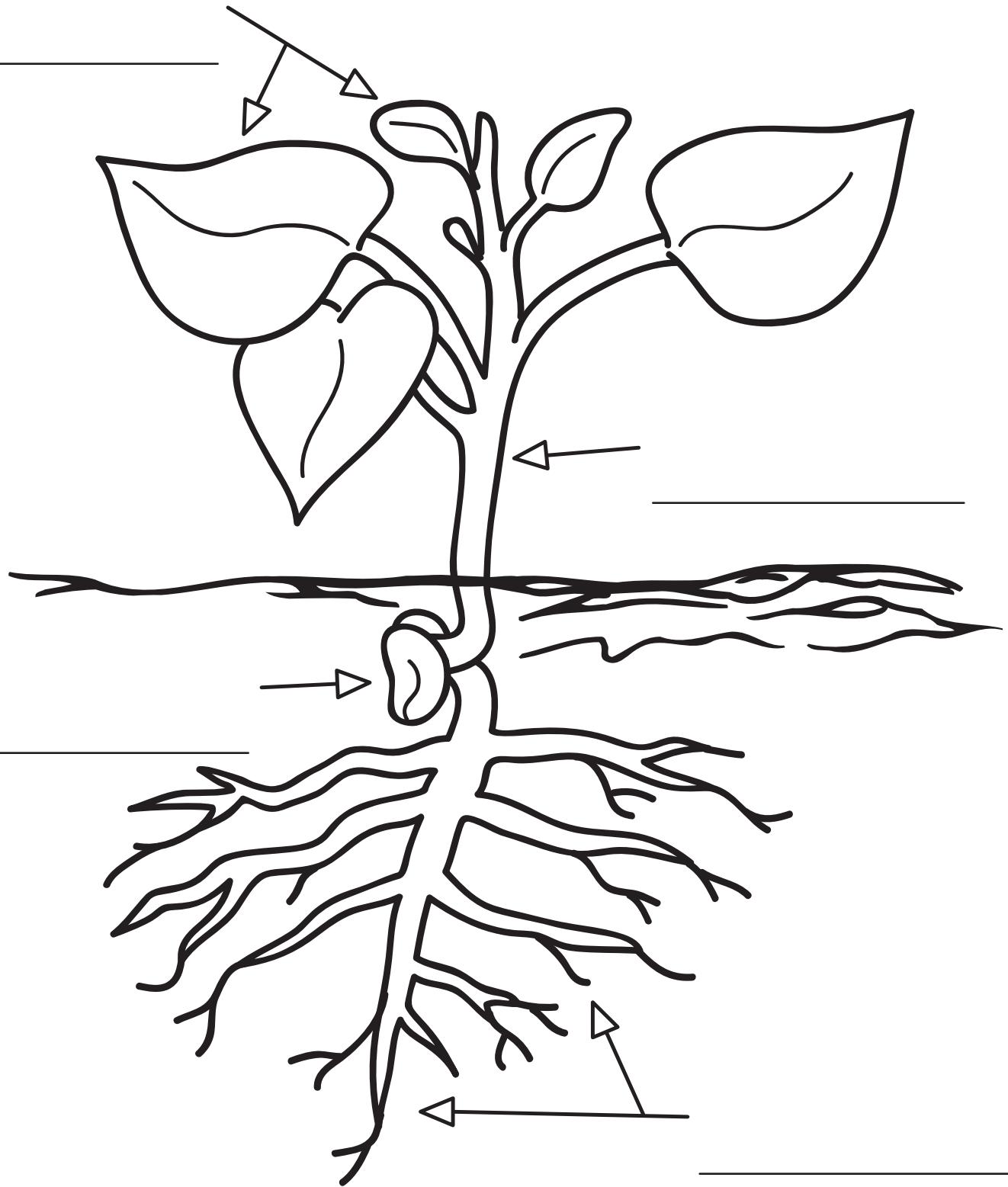


stem

seed

roots

Parts of a Plant Activity Sheet



leaves

roots

seed

stem