

Plants



Germination

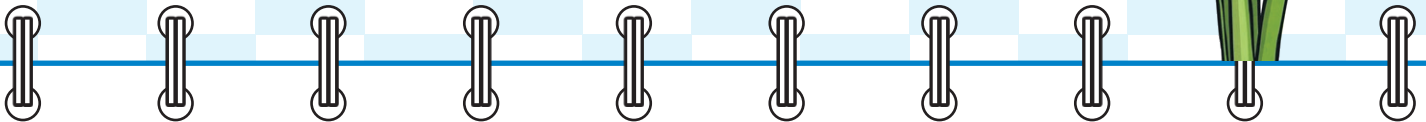
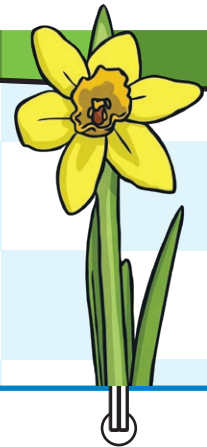
Germination is when a seed starts to grow into a plant. Seeds on their own or in a packet bought at the garden centre have not germinated yet. They need to be planted to have air, water and some warmth to start to grow – or germinate. First the seed will crack open as it starts to grow and the first thing to be seen (under or over the ground) is a tiny, green shoot. That tells us that the seed is germinating.

Roots

The roots of plants have many jobs. One important job is to collect water and nutrients from the soil (or whatever it is growing in). Another job is to keep the plant upright and stable. If the roots are not very strong, the plant may fall over. Tree roots are sometimes so strong that they can cause damage to walls, roads and buildings. The length of some tree roots is often longer than its height!

Fertilisation

This is what happens when the male and female parts of the flower have mixed. The pollen from the male part of the flower lands on the stigma at the top of the female part of the flower. The flower is now able to make seeds for new plants.



1. '...keep the plant upright and stable.'

What do you think the word stable means in this sentence?



2. Summarise the main point of the first paragraph in one short sentence.



3. Why do you think the author used an exclamation mark in the second paragraph?



4. What are the three things that plants need in order to start to grow?

Rin Jin the Dragon King



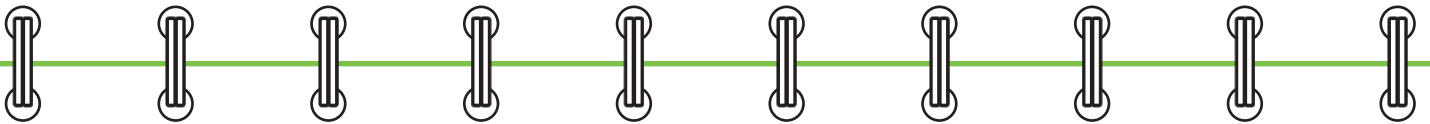
The Kingdom of the Sea was governed by a Rin Jin, the Dragon King of the Sea. He was the ruler of all sea creatures, both great and small, and he was the keeper of the Jewels of the Tide. When the Jewels of the Tide were thrown into the ocean, the waves rose as high as mountains and flew upon the shore like tidal waves.

The Palace of Rin Jin was at the bottom of the sea and it was so beautiful that no one has ever seen anything like it. The walls were made of coral, the roof of jade stone and the floors were of the finest pearl. Despite all this, the Dragon King was not at all happy for he reigned alone. He whittled away his days between the coral walls until a lovely, young dragon came to see the

palace in all its glory. Her scales were of glittering green like the wings of summer beetles and she was dressed in gorgeous, bejeweled robes.



The two fell in love at first glance. Their wedding ceremony was celebrated with great splendour. Every living thing in the sea, from the great whales down to the little shrimps, came in shoals to offer their congratulations. Never before had there been such festivities in the underwater world. Each fish carried a lantern and was dressed in ceremonial robes of gleaming blue, pink and silver. The lights twinkled so brightly that, as the waves rose and fell that night, they seemed to be waves of white and green fire.



1. ‘...came in shoals to offer their congratulations.’ What might the word shoals mean in this sentence?



2. Summarise the main events of this story in **two** short sentences.



3. Give **three** facts from the text about the Palace of Rin Jin.



4. How does the author make the wedding sound exciting?



A Tempting Treat

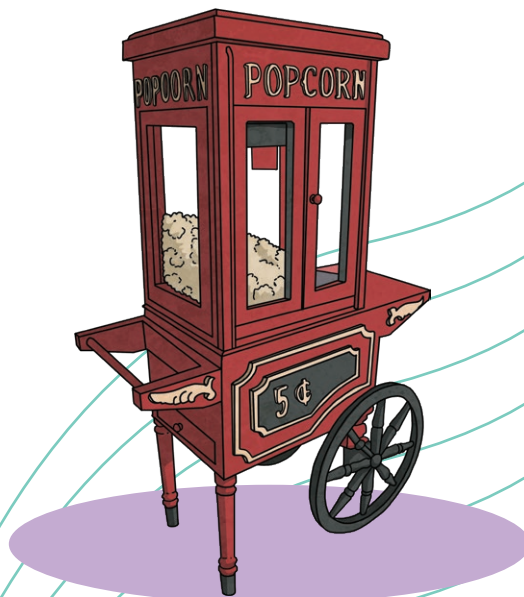


Pop! Pop! Poppetty-pop!
Shake and rattle, rattle and shake
The golden grains as they bounce and break
To fluffy puffiness. Poppetty-pop!
Bursting and banging the popper's top.

Poppetty-pop! Pop! Pop!
The yellow kernels, oh, see them grow
As white as cotton or flakes of snow.
Pop! Pop! Oh, how they frolic and fly about
And turn themselves suddenly inside out!

Pop-pop-poppetty! Pop-pop-pop!
The popper's full and we'll have to stop.
Pile the bowl with the tempting treat,
Children, come, it is time to eat!

Evaleen Stein (1863-1923)



1. What kind of food is the tempting treat? How do you know?



3. Find and copy **four** verbs from the first verse which tell you what the golden grains are doing.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



2. **As white as cotton or flakes of snow.**
Why do you think the author chooses these words to describe the treat?



4. In the last verse, where does the poet put the treat?

Answers

Plants

1. '...keep the plant upright and stable.'
What do you think the word stable means in this sentence?
Stable means, in this sentence, that the roots keep the plant steady or secure.
2. Summarise the main point of the first paragraph in one short sentence.
Accept any reasonable attempt of summarising the first paragraph as long as it is one short sentence, for example:
'When a plant has air, water and warmth, it will germinate.'
'A seed germinates when it gets what it needs when planted.'
3. Why do you think the author used an exclamation mark in the second paragraph?
Pupil's own responses, such as: The author used an exclamation mark because the fact in that sentence is unbelievable / shocking.
Because the author is surprised about the fact.
4. What are the three things that plants need in order to start to grow?
Only accept the following answer: 'Plants need air, water and (some) warmth to start to grow'. All three aspects are required for the mark.

Rin Jin the Dragon King

1. '...came in shoals to offer their congratulations.' What might the word shoals mean in this sentence?
Accept any reasonable answer referring to a group of or lots of creatures.
2. Summarise the main events of this story in **two** short sentences.
Pupil's own responses, such as:
'The King of the Sea had a beautiful palace but he was not happy. He fell in love and had a wonderful wedding.'
3. Give **three** facts from the text about the Palace of Rin Jin.
Accept any three of the following:
It was at the bottom of the sea.
It was beautiful.
The walls were made of coral.
The roof was made of jade stone.
The floors were made of pearl.
4. How does the author make the wedding sound exciting?
The author makes the wedding sound exciting by: using exciting vocabulary, e.g. splendour, gleaming, 'the lights twinkled so brightly'; making it sound unique, e.g. 'never before'; using exciting imagery, e.g. 'they seemed to be waves of white and green fire', 'ceremonial robes'; commenting on the characters' feelings, e.g. 'every living thing... came in shoals to offer their congratulations'; making it sound busy and bustling.

Answers

A Tempting Treat

1. What kind of food is the tempting treat? How do you know?

The tempting treat is popcorn. I know this because I know that popcorn makes a popping sound when it cooks/ popcorn is fluffy and puffs up/popcorn starts off as yellow kernels/popcorn is as white as cotton or flakes of snow/ popcorn is cooked in a 'popper'.

2. 'As white as cotton or flakes of snow.' Why do you think the author chooses these words to describe the treat?

Accept any reasonable answer relating to the following: the author's use of language (similes) helps the reader to imagine what it looks like accurately; to give the reader a good picture of what colour the treat is; to emphasise that the popcorn is no longer yellow, like the kernels.

3. Find and copy four verbs from the first verse which tell you what the golden grains are doing.

Accept any four of the following

verbs:

pop

shake

rattle

bounce

break

bursting

banging

4. In the last verse, where does the poet put the treat?

The poet puts the treat in a bowl.

Do NOT accept: They eat it.