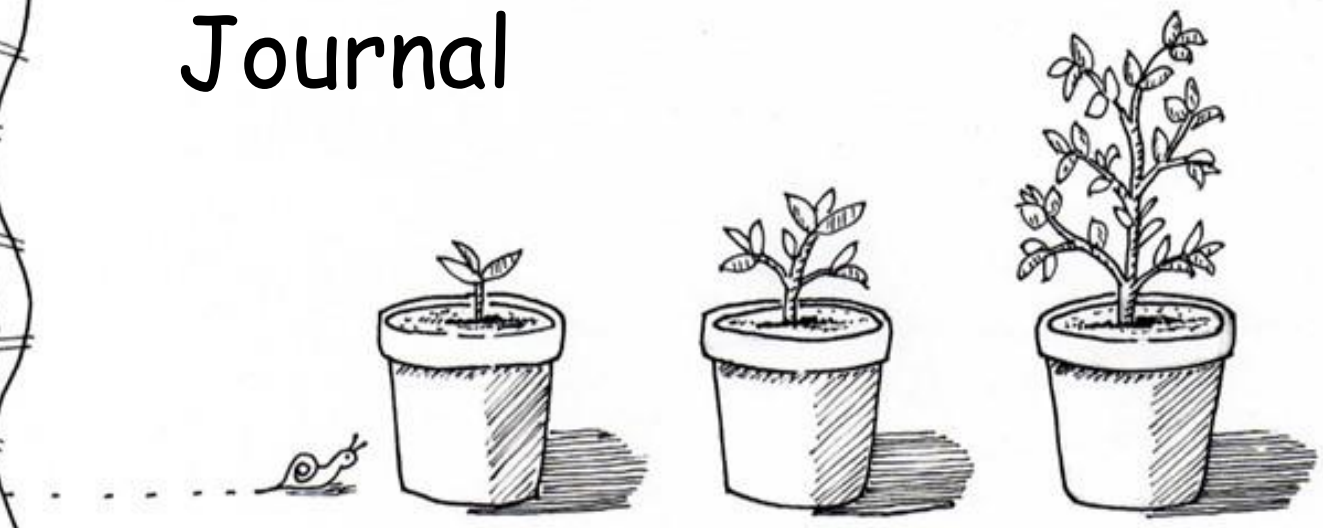
Plant Observation Journal



By

Keri Hawkins/DF2S ©

Greetings fellow gardener,

Davis Farm to School is very excited that you are interested in the life cycle of plants! We have created this journal for you to note your observations after you transplant your seedling or sow a seed. What will it look like when it grows, flowers, and goes to seed?

If you would like to share something about your plant, please send us a photo with a quick note telling us something about your picture. We would love to hear from you!

Instagram Tag @#df2smyplant or email: info@davisfarmtoschool.org

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What is the name of your seedling? _____

Where did you plant your seed or seedling?_____

_____

In the soil? ☐
In a pot? ☐

What is the location's growing condition?

Sunny ☐
Partly sunny ☐
Shady ☐

Draw a picture or map of where you planted your seed or seedling.

Life Cycle of a Plant

Cut and paste the pictures on page 5a into these squares or draw your own pictures.

First

Second

Third

Fourth

Fifth

Sixth

Seventh

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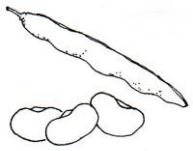
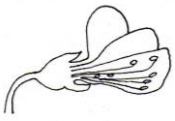
Cut along the boarder of each square below. Place the images in the correct order on the Life Cycle of a Plant page above or draw your own pictures in the boxes above for each stage of the plant life cycle.




Flower


Mature plant


Cotyledon

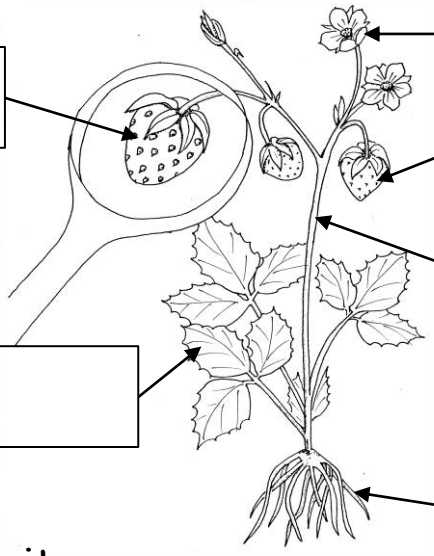

Plant dies


Seeds


Seedling


Fruit

Label the parts of this strawberry plant.



Word bank

Root	Stem	Fruit
Flower	Seed	Leaf

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Not all plants are edible. Some plants are poisonous and can be harmful if eaten. For example, the leaves, green stem, and flowers of the potato plant are poisonous, but the potato tuber is safe to eat. Draw examples in the boxes below of plant parts that are safe to eat. Hint: What part of the plant is a carrot, broccoli, apple, pepita, celery, or kale?

Root	Stem	Leaf
Flower	Fruit	Seed

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With an adult, identify the parts of your plant that you can eat. Predict how the edible parts will taste and look once they have matured. Draw a picture of yourself eating the edible parts.

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What delicious dish can you make with your plant?

My recipe for _____

Ingredients:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Directions:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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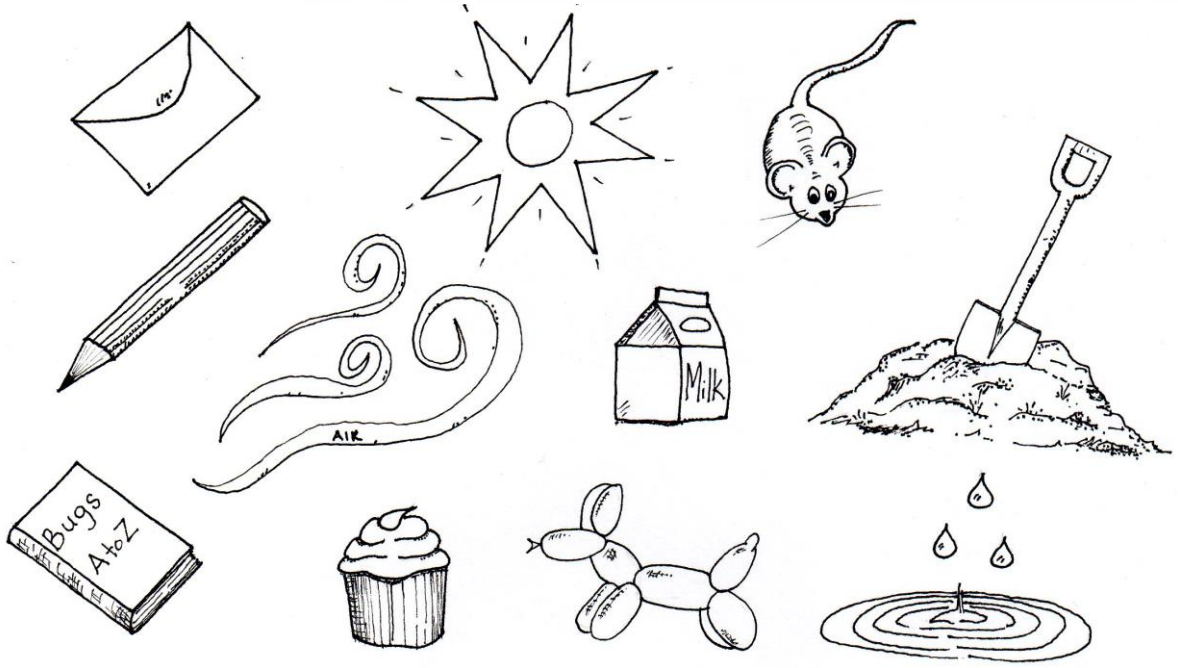
Circle three or four things **your plant** needs to survive.



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Organisms play two important roles. Decomposers return nutrients to the soil and pollinators pollinate flowers so that plants can reproduce. Draw a line from the organism to its function in the environment. Remember, most organisms need to fly to reach a flower and crawl to get to organic matter on the ground.

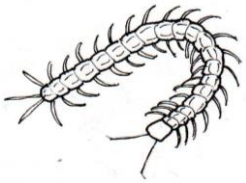
Honeybee

Pillbug

Decomposers
break down plant material and return it to the soil.

Fly

Dung beetle

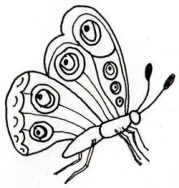


Centipede

Lacewings

Pollinators
pollinate plants so that they can produce fruit.

Earthworm



Butterfly

Fun fact: Pillbugs are crustaceans, not insects. A pillbug that has recently molted is purple blue in color.

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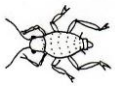
Pests: Some organisms harm plants by causing damage to roots, leaves, stems, fruit, or seeds. Gardeners consider destructive organisms pests, or "bad bugs". Below are a few examples of the most common pesky invaders you will want to keep away from your vegetable and herb plants.


Aphids


Scale


Caterpillar


Slug


Grasshoppers

Draw your insect


Earwigs


Snails


Cucumber beetle

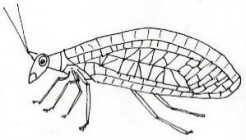
Some organisms may be considered "good" or "bad" depending on their developmental phase and where they are found. For example, a butterfly, may be considered a "bad bug" in one phase of its lifecycle (when it's a caterpillar), but a "good bug" in another (when it is a butterfly).

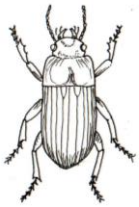
Beneficial insects: Some insects play an important role by protecting plants from harmful insects. Gardeners call these insects good bugs and welcome them into their garden. Below are a few examples of common good bugs.


Ladybug


Wasp


Ladybug larva


Lacewing


Ground beetle

Draw your insect


Spider


Praying mantis


Butterfly

iNaturalist or **Picture Insect** are two wonderful phone apps that can help you identify insects in your garden.

Do you see any organisms on or near your plant? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Draw a picture of the organism.

What is the organism doing? _____

_____

_____

Do you think it is a beneficial (good) organism or a harmful (bad) organism? ☐ Good ☐ Bad

Why? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Over the summer, I will observe and record my plant's weekly growth. I will record the date, make observations, measure my plant, and draw pictures.

I believe if I take these step to care for my plant, _____

(For example: carefully transplanting it, watering it, etc.)

_____

_____

I predict my plant will _____

_____

_____

_____

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Day _____

I noticed _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Draw a picture of your plant.

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Day _____

I observed _____

Draw a picture of your plant.

Sunny ☐ Cloudy ☐ Raining ☐

☐ cm tall

I watered my plant ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Day _____

I wonder _____

Draw a picture of your plant.

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Day _____

I observed _____

Draw a picture of your plant.

Sunny ☐ Cloudy ☐ Raining ☐

☐ cm tall

I watered my plant ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Day _____

I noticed _____

Draw a picture of your plant.

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Day _____

I observed _____

Draw a picture of your plant.

Sunny ☐ Cloudy ☐ Raining ☐

☐ cm tall

I watered my plant ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Day _____

I wonder _____

Draw a picture of your plant.

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Directions for making a ruler to measure the height of your plant in centimeters.

1. Cut the strips out along the dashed lines

2. Place your strips end to end. Put strip #2 above strip #1; strip number #3 above strip #2, and strip #4 above strip #3.

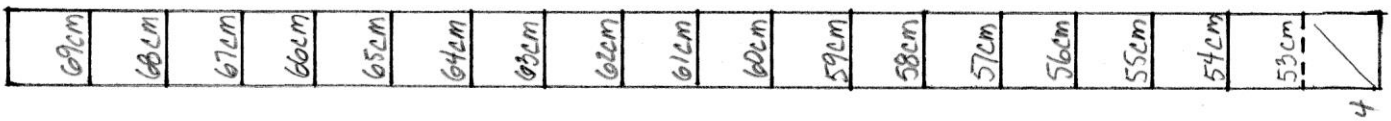
3. Overlapping strips #1 and #2 by placing the last square at the top of strip #1 (18 cm) over bottom square ☒ of strip #2. Tape or glue them together.

4. Overlapping strips #2 and #3 by placing the last square at the top of strip #2 (35 cm) over bottom square ☒ of strip #3. Tape or glue them together.

5. Overlapping strips #3 and #4 by placing the last square at the top of strip #3 (52cm) over bottom square ☒ of strip #4. Tape or glue them together.

Cut along this dashed line first

Cut along this dashed line



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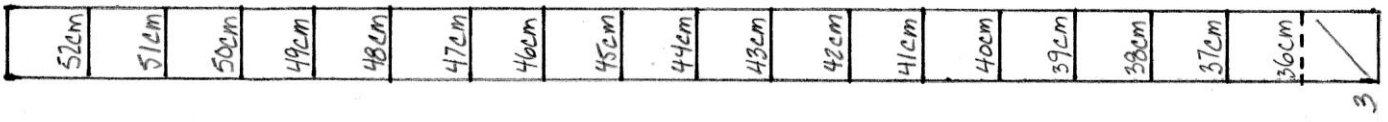

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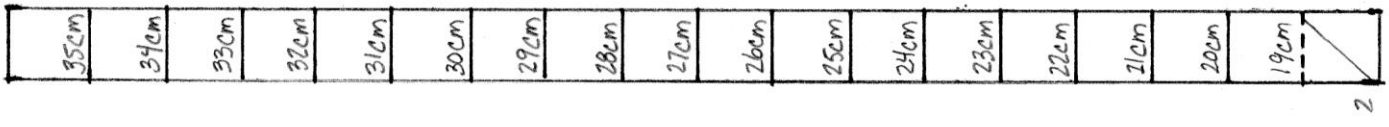

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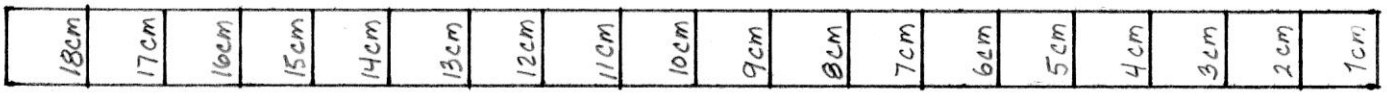

Cut along this dashed line

I hope you enjoyed completing the Plant Observation Journal. Answers to the questions can be found on the Davis Farm to School website: https://www.davisfarmtoschool.org/

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