



TRUCKEE MEADOWS PARKS FOUNDATION

AWARENESS • APPRECIATION • STEWARDSHIP

The Student Stewards Program presents

Distance Learning Week 5: K-2nd

Plants

This week we will be exploring the wonderful ways plants respond to their environment to stay healthy and strong!



April Showers Bring May Flowers

Take a moment to look outside or step out into your backyard. Look around you and listen to the different sounds. It's April in Reno, and we are well into Spring! It's cool in the morning, gently warm in the afternoon, and the nights can grow a little chilly. It is very different from the cold and snow we experience during winter.

Have you ever thought about the changing of the seasons?

It might seem strange that snow eventually helps flowers grow or that it's necessary for trees to lose their leaves in the fall, but nature's seasons help keep the natural world healthy. You might have noticed that the sun stays out longer during summer days and that the sun goes down very early in the winter. This change in day length combined with temperature changes causes the plants to adapt.

Sunlight is one of the main ingredients for a plant's food, so shorter days mean less food and less growth! In order to stay healthy during the shorter winter days, many plants lose leaves and flowers so they don't waste energy. During the spring, plants start growing new leaves to absorb more sun. Flowers grow in the spring to make new plants in the summer and fall.

For more in-depth information about the seasons, follow this QR code to *Generation Genius*'s lesson about Earth's four seasons.

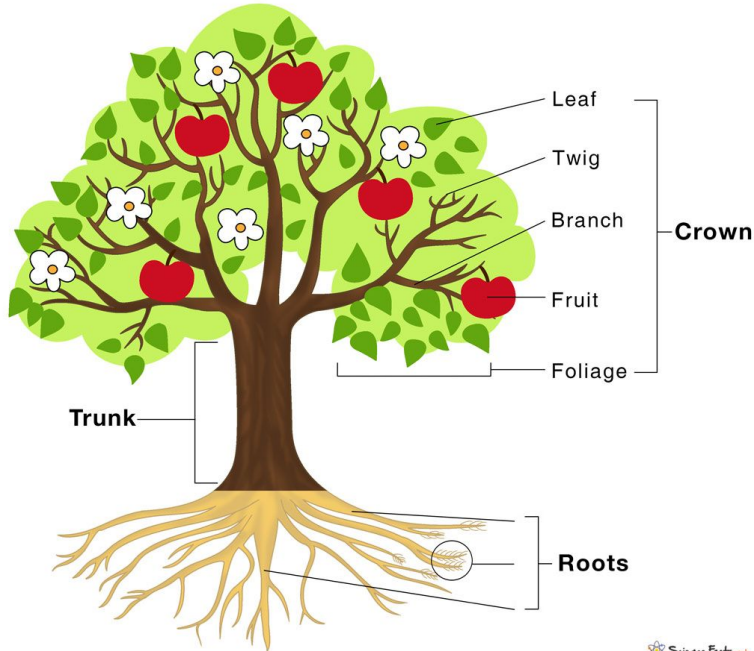


Trees and Bees and Flowers, oh my!

What is a tree?

A tree is a plant that lives for many years that normally has one hard, woody trunk.

Parts of a Tree



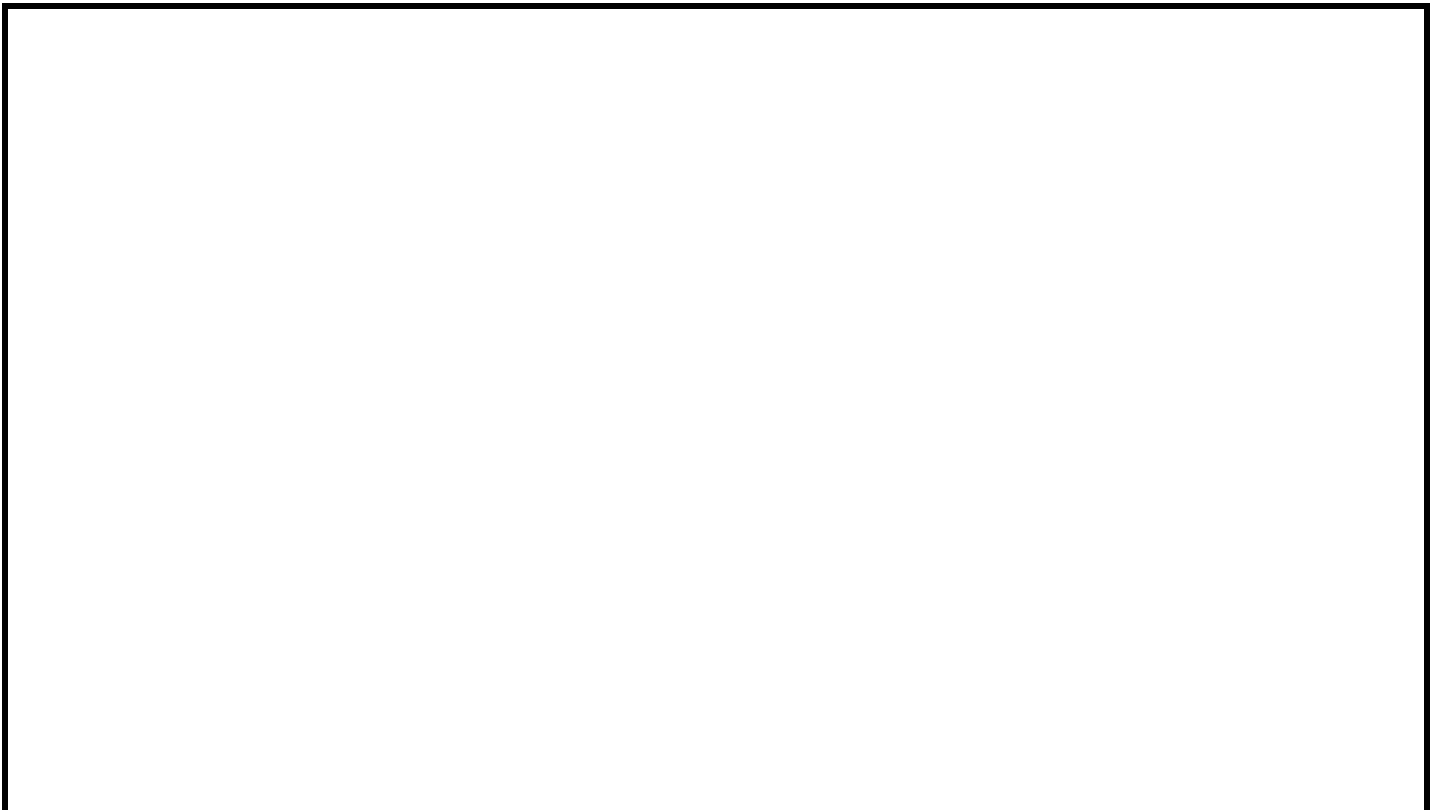
Parts of a tree:

The three main parts: the roots, trunk, and crown.

The crown can be broken into smaller parts such as the branches, leaves, fruits, and flowers.

A group of leaves on a tree is called *foliage*.

Draw your own tree and practice labeling the different parts.



What is a flower?

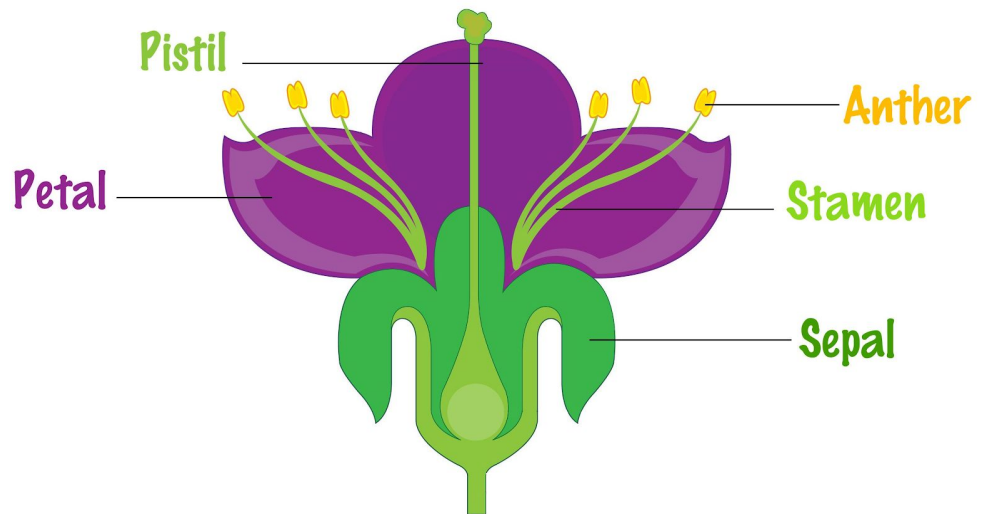
A flower is a special part of a plant that helps make new plants. Flowers are usually the most colorful part of the plant.

Parts of a flower:

The outside parts are the petals, sepals, stem, and leaves.

The inside parts are the pistil and the stamen (each stamen has a part at the end called an anther). These make pollen and seeds.

On some plants, the flower grows fruit!



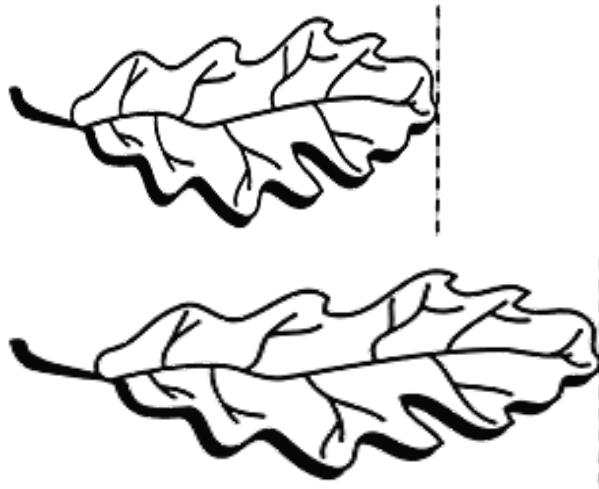
Draw your own flower and practice labeling the different parts.

Spring is Here!

Go on a nature walk outside with an adult and explore! Look for different plants. During and after your walk, you can do the following activities based on what you saw!

Collect fallen leaves and organize them by size:

For younger kids, you can compare them side by side.



For the older kids, you can use a ruler to measure them first!



One Thing, Two Things, Red Thing, Blue Thing

When you go outside or on a walk with an adult, take some time to look carefully at the natural colors around you. Spring is the perfect time to see new and bright colors as plants start to grow new leaves and flowers!



Photo by [Andrew Gibson](#)

As you explore, think about what colors you find the most, where you find different colors, and if you expect these colors to change in the next two weeks.

Use crayons or markers to draw the things you see in the boxes below. Draw them in the correct color box and, if you know what they are, label them as well!

Red	
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Orange



Yellow



Green



Blue

Indigo

Violet

Circle which color you saw the most on your walk:

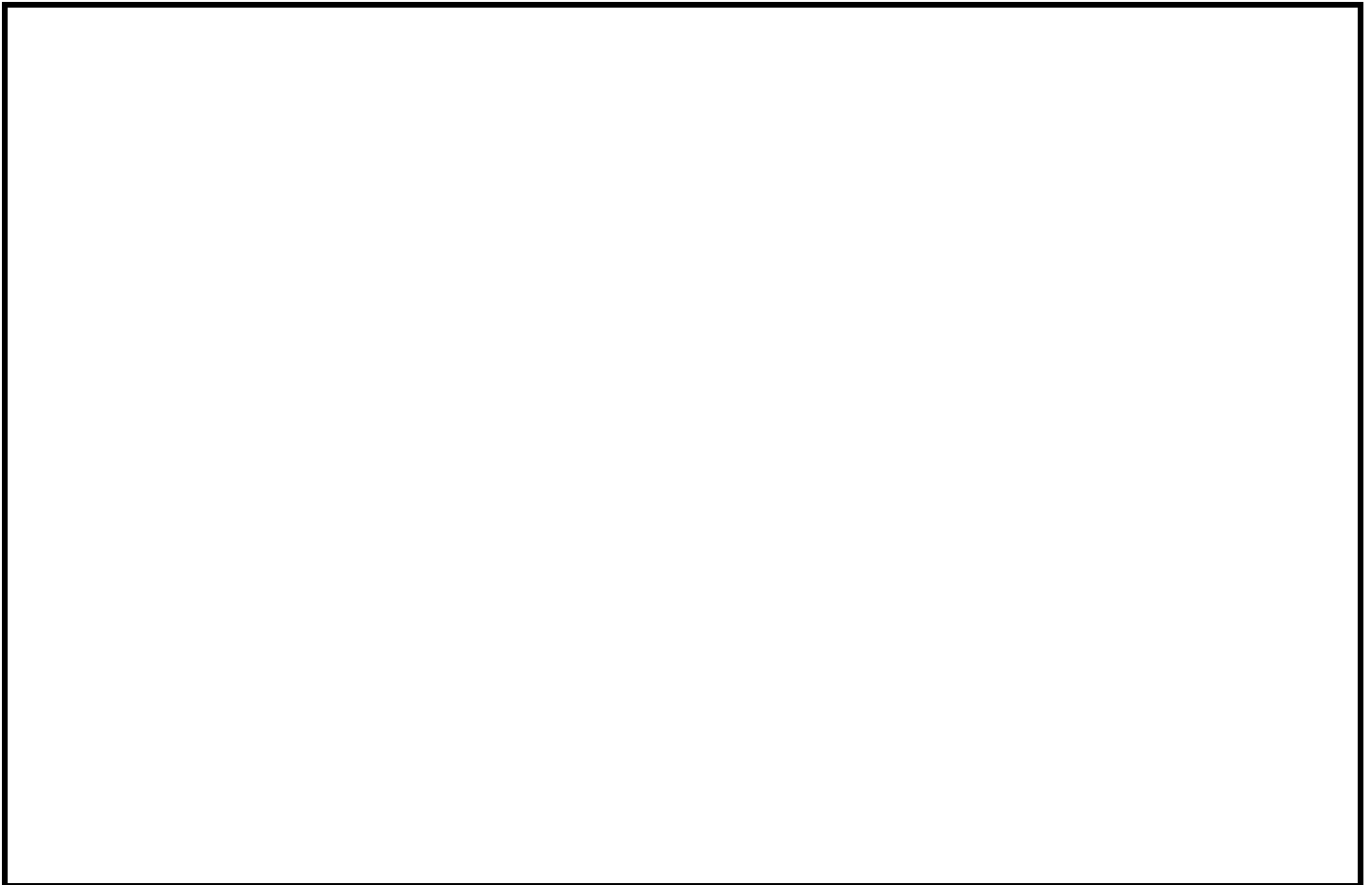
- Red** **Orange** **Yellow** **Green** **Blue** **Indigo** **Violet**

I will Survive! I will Thrive!

During your walk, take a break and sit down in front of your favorite plant. It can be a tree or a shrub or flowers, anything you want! For this exercise, we will be thinking about what plants do to help them stay alive.

Part 1

Draw a picture of your plant.



Part 2

Label the different parts of your plant. You can use the previous pages to help you!
Some words that can be useful are:

Branch

Crown

Flower

Fruit

Leaf

Petal

Roots

Sepal

Stem

Trunk



Part 3

Talk with an adult about the plant you drew. Practice describing the plant to them with as much detail as possible. Think about its shape, size, color, smell, and even where it's growing.

Part 4

Now that you've described your plant, talk with an adult about how this plant survives and protects itself. Does it have thorns that hurt when you touch them? Does it have a really bad smell? Does it have big leaves to collect lots of sun? What else do you notice?

Once you've talked with an adult, practice writing by finishing the sentences below.

The _____ on the plant helps it stay safe
because _____
_____.

The _____ on the plant helps it grow
strong because _____
_____.

The _____ on the plant helps it survive
because _____
_____.