

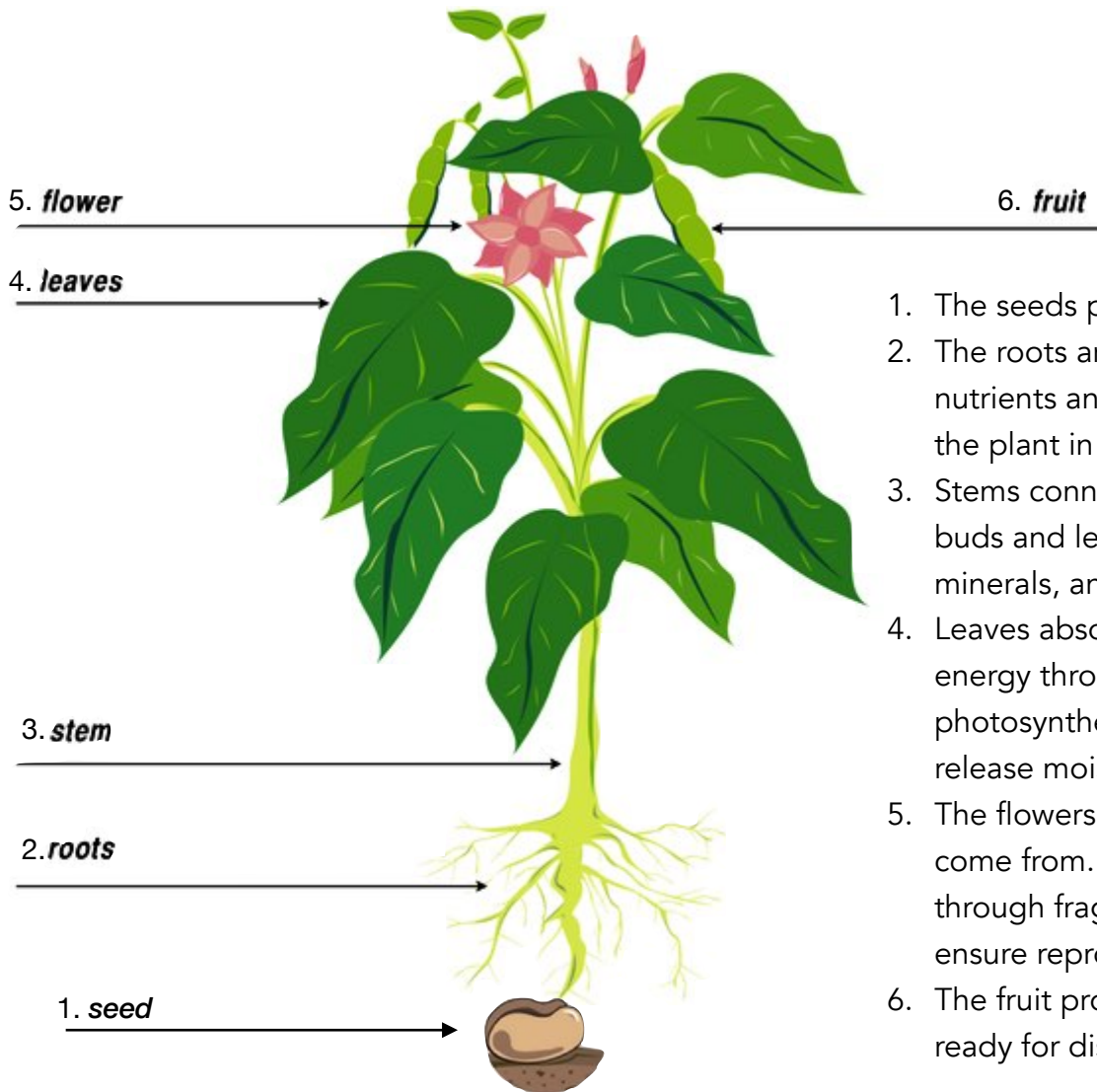


VICTORY GARDENS

Lesson and Activity Suggestions for Grades 3 - 5

Getting to Know your Plants

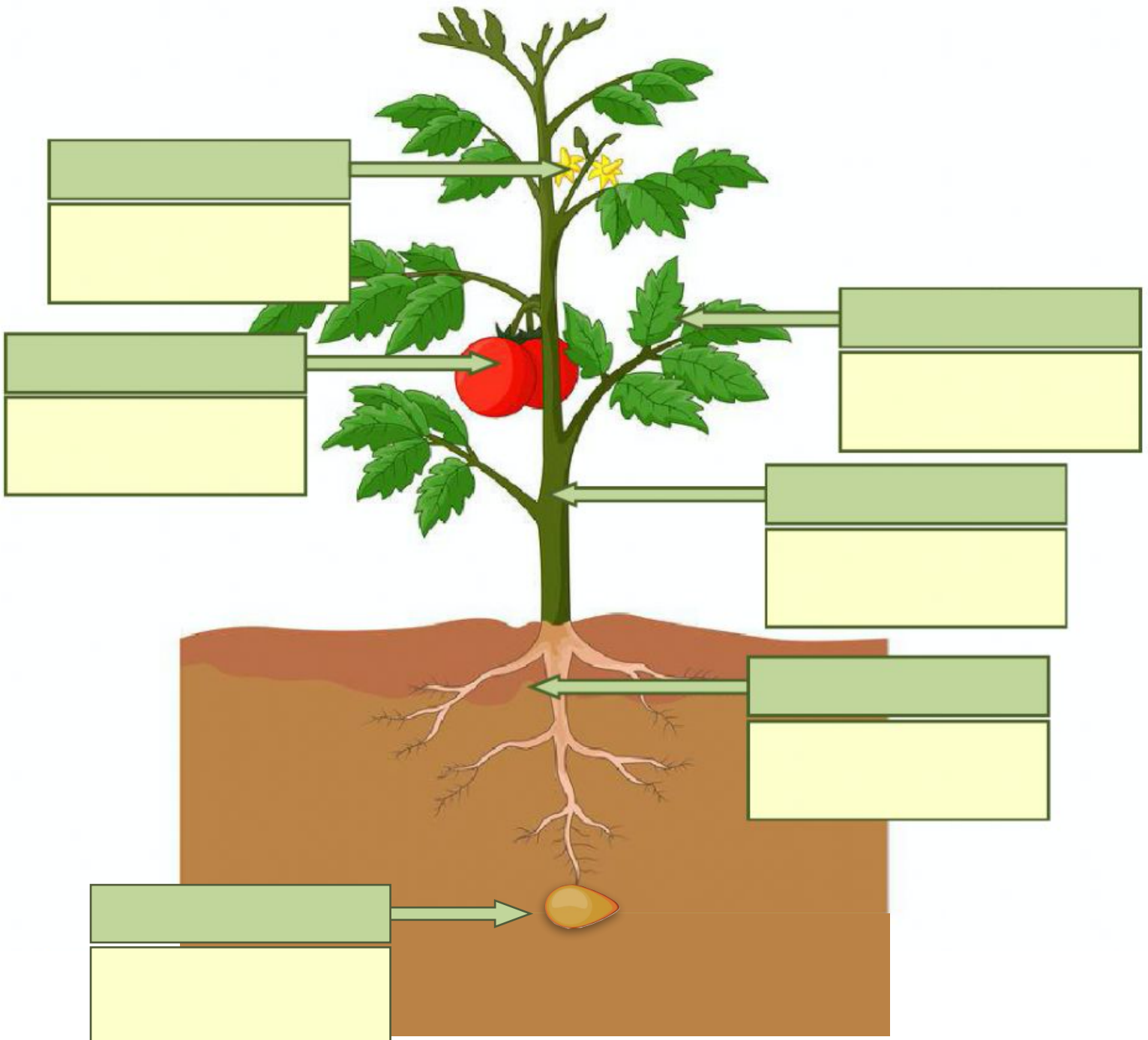
As you plant and add labels to the different seeds and plants you are using in your Victory Garden, it is important to understand the various parts and functions of them in order to know what their needs are. Let's take a look at this bean plant to learn the six main plant parts and their functions. Read them carefully, because you'll be quizzed on them on page two!



1. The seeds produce more plants.
2. The roots are found underground, absorb nutrients and water for growth, anchor the plant in the soil, and can store food.
3. Stems connects leaves to roots, support buds and leaves, as well as carry water, minerals, and food.
4. Leaves absorb sunlight, which gives energy through the process of photosynthesis for plants to grow and to release moisture and oxygen.
5. The flowers are where fruits and seeds come from. They attract pollinators through fragrance and color to help ensure reproduction of fruit.
6. The fruit protects the seeds until they are ready for dispersal.

Which Came First? The Fruit or the Seed?

I do not expect you to have the answer to that, can you fill in the green boxes with the correct parts of this tomato plant? Then, can you fill in the yellow boxes with the function of that part?



Vegetable or Fruit?

When we talk about Victory Gardens, we almost always refer to the plants as vegetables. But technically, that is a lie. According botanists, the seeds and plants we sent home for you contain way more fruits than vegetables. From the list below, put a dot next to the ones you think are fruits.

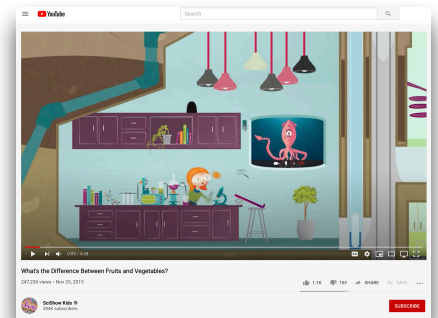
Seeds

sunflowers
beans
radish
carrots
pumpkins
cucumbers
corn

Plants

lettuce
cherry tomatoes
regular tomatoes
jalapeño peppers
bell peppers
onions

Confused? I was too, until I watched this short video called "What's the Difference Between Fruits and Vegetables" on You Tube. Let's watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTK-uWx_VQo



After the video, look at the lists of seeds and plants again. This time make a circle around the ones you now *know* are fruits. How many did you get right the first time? And the second time? (Isn't learning great?!)

Now, unscramble the types of seeds and plants in the list that are true vegetables.

soninso =

dnbsa =

telcute =

tosrarc =

iadhrrs =

Get This: In 1883, the tomato made an appearance in the United States Supreme Court! The Tariff Act of 1883 placed a tax on imported vegetables, including tomatoes, so a wise importer challenged that the tomato is botanically a fruit and not subject to these taxes. However, the Supreme Court ruled that even though the tomato is botanically a fruit, in practical terms it is consumed as part of meal like other vegetable, while fruits are usually consumed individually or as a dessert. Therefore, by ruling of the Supreme Court the tomato is a vegetable. So when asked if a tomato is a fruit or a vegetable, the correct answer is, "Both!" The common use of the Supreme Courts' definition continues to be applied to many "fruits" in our diet. Both fruits and vegetables are packed full of vitamins and fiber, but, in general, fruit is the sweeter treat whereas vegetables are used for savory dishes.

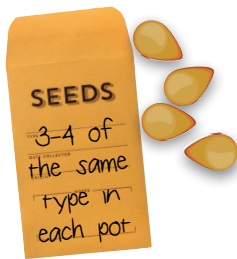


What Type of Soil Do My Plants Prefer?

Let's get our hands dirty and find out!

1. Select one type of seed from your supplies, like a radish or a bean.
2. Fill four small containers with the same amount of four different types of soils. Suggested soils are sand, potting soil, dirt from the yard, and a mixture of half-sand and half-potting soil.
3. Plant 3-4 seeds in each container.
4. Water each container with the same amount of water (1/4 - 1/2 cup).
5. Place your containers in a sunny location.
6. Make your own prediction in the chart. Ask and record the predictions of two other family members.
7. Within one week your seeds should sprout. Describe what you see in the chart.
8. Repeat this again after two weeks and so on for 6- 8 weeks until you have an answer for what type of soil the seed you chose prefers.

Analyze: Were any of your predictions correct? Why do you think you got the results you did?



| | ME | PERSON 2 | PERSON 3 |
|---|----|----------|----------|
| In which soil do you think your seeds will grow best? | | | |
| Why? | | | |
| Describe what you see after one week. | | | |
| Describe what you see after two weeks. | | | |
| Describe what you see after three weeks. | | | |