



# From Seed to Sunflower



*Read the passage below and answer  
the questions on the next page.*

Sunflowers are beautiful, tall plants that we often see in gardens or fields. But do you know how a tiny seed becomes such a big, bright flower? Let's take a journey through the life of a sunflower.

First, a sunflower seed needs to be planted in the ground. The seed needs plenty of sunshine and just the right amount of water. After about a week, a small sprout pokes through the soil. This is the sunflower starting to grow.

The sprout grows into a stem, and leaves begin to form. After around two weeks, the sunflower is about knee-high. As the sunflower grows, it starts to develop a bud at the top. The bud is where the flower will bloom.

After about 70 to 100 days, the bud opens up to reveal a beautiful, yellow sunflower. The sunflower turns to face the sun as it moves across the sky, which is known as "following the sun".

Eventually, the sunflower begins to droop and the petals fall off. The center of the sunflower is filled with seeds. These seeds can be collected and planted, and the cycle starts all over again.

1) What is the first step in the life cycle of a sunflower?

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2. How does a sunflower 'follow the sun'?

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3) What happens to the sunflower after it blooms and the petals fall off?

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4) Why does a sunflower need plenty of sunshine and the right amount of water?

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5) What cause-and-effect relationship can you identify in the life cycle of a sunflower?

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