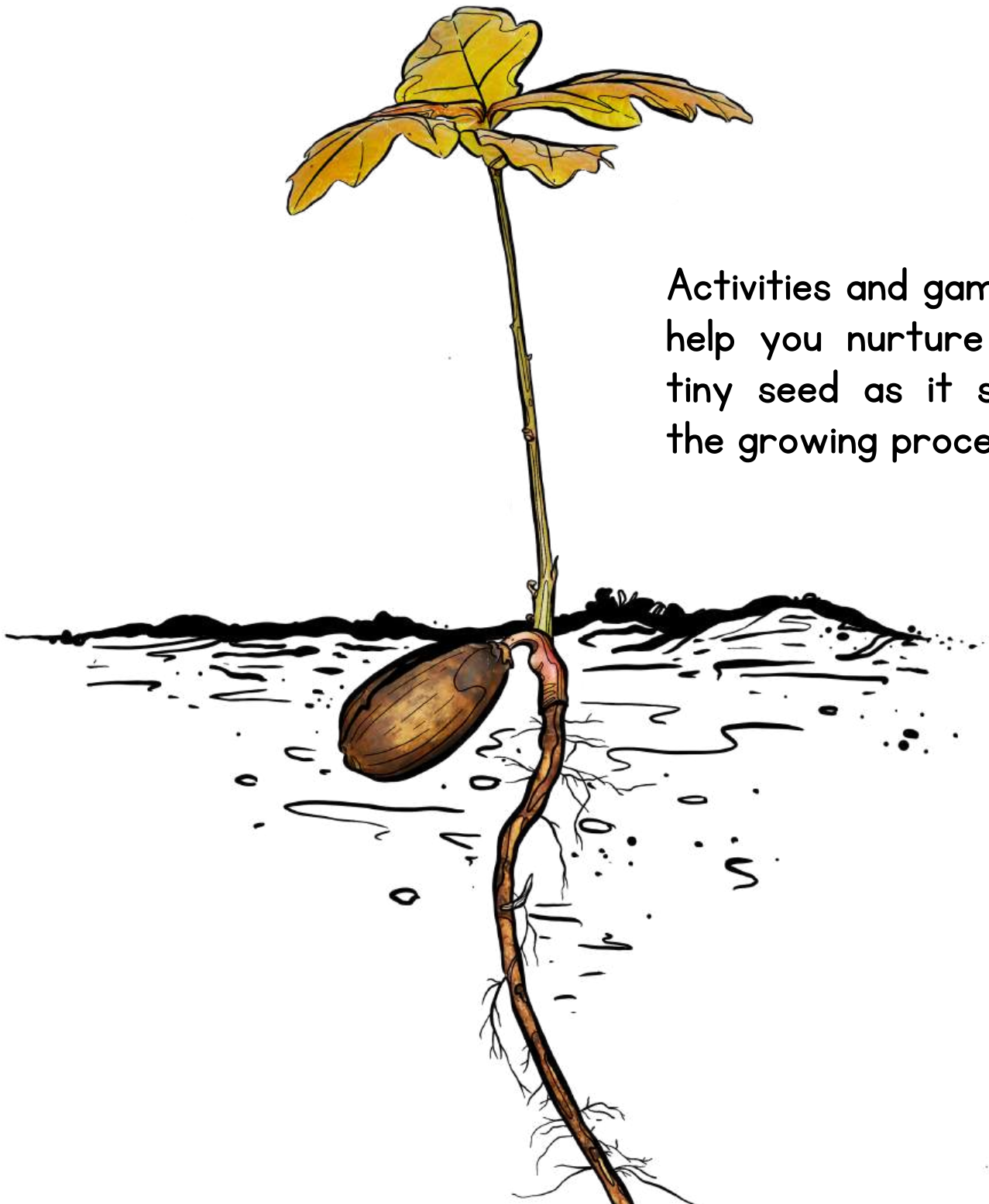




Sowing the seed



Activities and games to help you nurture your tiny seed as it starts the growing process



Seed sowing recipe

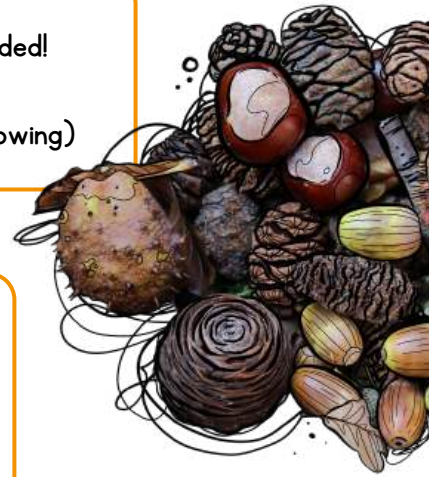
We're going to learn how to sow seeds and grow our own trees! Just like following a recipe for your favourite dish, we'll use a 'seed sowing recipe' to guide us through the process. Let's get started!

Ingredients

- Seeds - make sure they've experienced the required cold period if needed!
- Soil or compost
- Pot or root trainer (for container sowing) or seedbed (for outdoor sowing)

1. Prepare

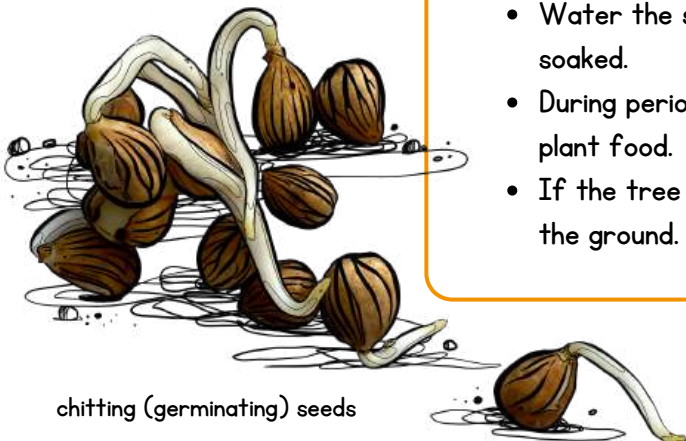
- If your seeds needed a cold period (stratification), and they are germinating, take them out of the soil or sand.
- Alternatively, sow all the seeds when 10% of them have started to germinate (chit), as this may indicate the others are ready too.



2. Method

Container sowing (using pots):

- Find a clean pot or recycled container (e.g., milk carton with the top cut off) with small holes in the bottom for water drainage. Fill the pot with peat-free potting compost.
- Sow a single germinating seed or a pinch of small seeds on the compost's surface.
- Water the seeds regularly to keep the compost moist but not soaked.
- During periods of active growth, feed the young tree with liquid plant food.
- If the tree outgrows its pot, transfer it to a larger container or the ground.



chitting (germinating) seeds



Seed sowing recipe

2. Method

Container sowing (using root trainers):

- Fill the root trainer with peat-free potting compost. Sow either a single germinating seed or a pinch of small seeds in each cell.
- Water the seeds regularly and add plant feed during active growth.
- Once the young trees have well-developed roots, they are ready to be planted out.

Outdoor sowing (using seedbeds):

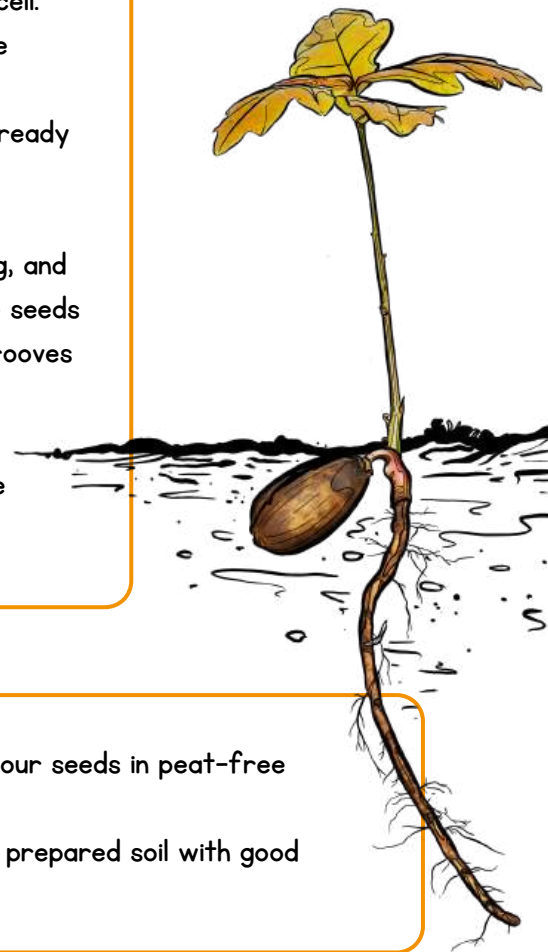
- Prepare the soil in the seedbed to ensure it is free-draining, and add coarse grit if needed for better drainage. Scatter the seeds over the surface of the seedbed or sow them in shallow grooves (drills). Cover with soil.
- Use a protective fence to keep away rabbits and rodents. Water the seeds regularly, and the trees can be left in the seedbed for a year or more before being planted out.

3. Where

- If using pots or root trainers, sow your seeds in peat-free potting compost.
- If using seedbeds, sow your seeds in prepared soil with good drainage.

4. Care

- Water your young trees regularly to help them grow.
- Provide plant feed during active growth to support healthy development.



Now you have your seed sowing recipe! Follow these instructions, and you'll be on your way to growing beautiful trees.



Help your seeds grow

You've sown your seeds - now we're going to explore the secrets behind getting those tiny seeds to sprout into vibrant, green plants!

Just like you need the right things to grow big and strong, seeds also have their own unique needs to germinate, or in simple words, to start growing. Let's discover what these seeds need to begin their growth process. Your job is to match each icon with the correct condition it represents.

Other seeds prefer the comforting darkness!



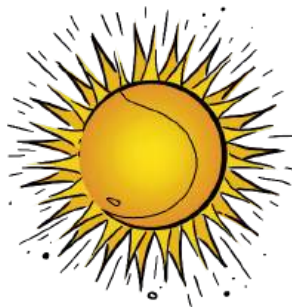
Seeds need water to quench their thirst!



Give your seeds a breath of fresh air!



Some seeds love to bask in the sunlight!



Keep your seeds cosy and warm!





Spot the difference

Look at the two illustrations below. One seed has grown into a healthy plant, while the other seed has not grown well. Can you spot the differences that caused the failure of the second seedling? Identify the problems for the unhealthy plant and write them down in the space provided.

Healthy plant



Unhealthy plant



Can you spot the six differences that are causing issues for plant 2?

Issue 1

Issue 2

Issue 3

Issue 4

Issue 5

Issue 6

For your seeds to grow into healthy trees - make sure you avoid making these mistakes!





Seedling protection checklist

To ensure your seeds grow well, here's a checklist of things you can do:

Drainage

Make sure your seeds don't get waterlogged. Use containers with holes at the bottom to allow water to escape. If you're using outdoor seedbeds with heavy soils, add sand and grit to improve drainage.

Shelter

Germinating seeds need protection from harsh elements like hot sun, cold winds, and frost. Also, keep them safe from birds, mice, and other animals. Planting in a shady spot against a wall can provide ideal shelter.

Watering

Regularly water your containers, especially during hot summers. Proper watering is essential for healthy plant growth.

Plant feed

Occasionally, give the seedlings some liquid plant feed to provide essential nutrients for their growth.

Weeding

Make sure to weed containers and seedbeds carefully to avoid pulling up young plants by mistake.





Watering chart

Use this watering log to keep track of watering your germinating seeds. Follow the guidelines provided and record your observations as you care for your seeds.

Seed type: - - - - -

Date of planting: - - - - -

Watering guidelines

- Watering frequency: Water your germinating seeds once a day.
- Watering amount: Be gentle while watering; use a small watering can or spray bottle to avoid overwatering.
- Observe moisture: Before watering, check the soil's moisture by touching the top layer with your finger. Only water when the soil feels dry to the touch.

Date	Observations



Remember to be patient and consistent in watering to help your seeds grow into healthy plants!