



The Garden Project

Primary Resource
Ages 4-7

“Your life is a print-out of your thoughts.”

4-7 Primary Resource Overview

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Visual resource available contact SAMS for details

SAMS would like to acknowledge and express thanks to Catherine Drayson for sharing with us the numerous images within this resource.



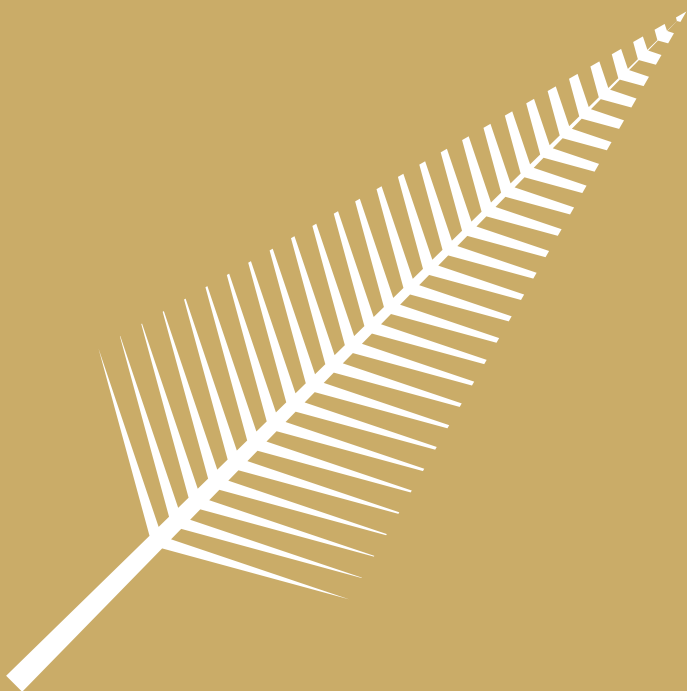
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Session Summaries



Session Summary

Session ①

Introductory Game

Beans

Memory Verse

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” MATTHEW 25:35

Teaching

Show Power Point – Alec’s Garden Project

Activity

Growing a cress Head

Wrap Up

Thank You Prayer -

Organise the children to stand in a circle. Ask them to think of something to say thank you to God for. Brain storm some ideas so that those who have difficulty thinking of something will get some help. Accept all answers. Tell the children you are going to throw a ball and the person who catches it shouts out what they have thought of. Ask the children to put their hands out ready to catch the ball if they want to take part. Make a rule that children only pass it to someone who has their hands out ready to catch it. Start off with We thank you God for..... and forand for..... Repeat so that everyone gets a turn.

Extra Activity/Home Activity

Cress Head sequencing activity



Session Summary

Session ②

Introductory Game

Seeds & Fruits

Memory Verse

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

JAMES 1:22

Teaching

The Sower video

See "The Sower- Notes for Leaders 4-7"

Activity

Sunflower art using seeds

Wrap Up

Have some letter cards. (Three should be enough for this age group) Ask the children to think of something to pray for beginning with that letter.

E.g. W = Wichí, work, water G = Garden project, God's love, granny.

Accept all the children's answers but make some suggestions linked to today's teachings if the children don't think of some themselves.

Have a short prayer time where the children can join in. Explain that when you hold up a letter, they can say the name of the person or thing they have thought about e.g. Thank you Lord for teaching us today. We pray for(Hold up letter and leave time for children to respond) and.....

We thank you that you hear all our prayers. Amen

Extra Activity/Home Activity

The Sower colouring sheet



Session Summary

Session ③

Introductory Game

Seed.....seed.....seed.....plant

Memory verse

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. EPHESIANS 2:8

Teaching

The Parable of the Mustard

Seed - Use video

See "The Mustard Seed-
Notes for Leaders 4-7"

Activity

Tall plant, small seed activity

Wrap Up

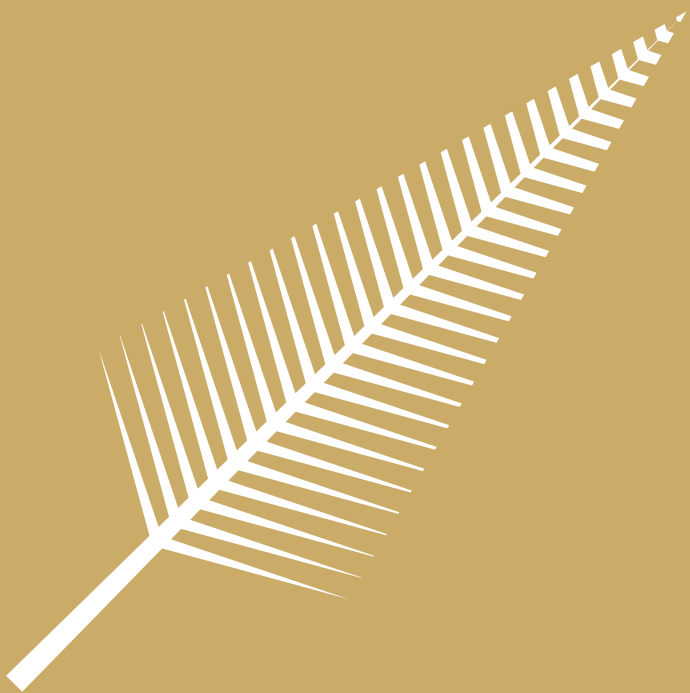
Show Power Point "People helped by the Garden Project" - see leader's notes for this powerpoint

Extra Activity/Home Activity

Memory verse puzzle



Games



Session One

Beans

Age Range: 4 to 11

This activity is ideal for use as a warm-up before the main part of the lesson.

- 1) The children should begin by walking around the room in any direction.
- 2) On the various commands, they should carry out the appropriate action.



COMMAND

ACTION

JUMPING BEAN	Jump around the room.
RUNNER BEAN	Run around the room (looking out for other people).
BROAD BEAN	Stretch your arms and legs out as wide as you can. Walk around the room taking as large strides as possible. Jump in a star shape.
BAKED BEAN	Lie on the floor in a star shape until the next command is given.
JELLY BEAN	Wobble like a jelly.
CHILLI BEAN	Shiver and shake.
FROZEN BEAN	Children have to stand very still.
MR. BEAN	Walk around with a puzzled/vacant expression, muttering under your breath!
BEAN SPROUTS	Stand on tiptoes and make yourself as tall and thin as possible.
BLACK-EYED BEANS	Children stand still and 'shadow box' by punching the air in front of them. (obviously not touching anyone!) Stand on the spot with one hand over one eye.
BEANY BABY	Walk around the room, crying like a baby.
FRENCH BEANS	Stand in one spot and do the can-can. OR Strike a pose and shout "Bonjour!" or "Oh la la".
BACK TO BACK BEAN	Find a partner and stand back to back until the next command.
COFFEE BEANS	All cough madly (hands over mouths of course).
KIDNEY BEANS	Stand still with arms and upper body bent forwards at waist. OR Bend over and try to touch your toes! OR Freeze and bend into a C shape and shout Chilli Con Carne!
BUTTER BEANS	Slide around on bottom (indoors). OR Make a cuboid shape.
SANTA'S BEEN	Walk about wobbling your tummy saying "Ho, Ho, Ho".
FULL OF BEANS	Dance around really energetically!
HAS BEANS	Walk around with a pretend walking stick as if old and frail. Point behind you, look behind you, or walk backwards.
BEANSTALK	Children could start crouched on the floor and grow up slowly until they are straight and tall like the beanstalk in 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. OR children run up the bean stalk when you shout GIANT they climb back down and chop the beanstalk down.
MAGIC BEAN	Children either wave their magic wand or waggle their fingers as if casting a spell. OR children return to the exact spot they started the game in (useful to get them to find identifying features of their starting point).

Session Two

Seeds & Fruits

Age Range: 4 to 11

Introduction

Gather children together and remind them briefly that last week they learned about the work of Alec Deane in Argentina, helping people grow vegetables and fruit in their gardens. Explain that Alec gives people good seeds which will grow into strong healthy plants. The plants can then be eaten.

Equipment

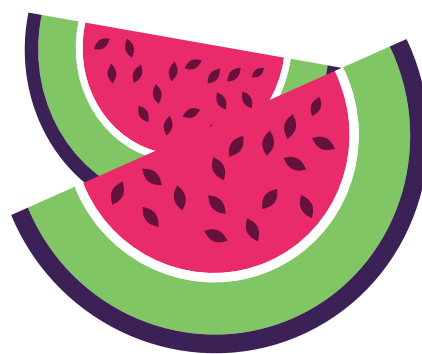
A variety of seeds/stones/pips from different fruits/vegetables (as varied as possible) e.g. avocado stone, coffee beans, dried corn kernels or dried peas, orange or apple pips, plum or peach stone, pumpkin/cucumber seeds, tomato seeds etc. The corresponding fruit/vegetables tin of peas/jar of coffee etc.

Instructions

Tell the children that this morning they are going to look at some different seeds and see if they know or can guess what type of plant they might grow into. It is best to display them in freezer bags and walk around so the children can see clearly. Have the corresponding fruits/vegetables hidden around the room. Take a few suggestions for what each seed is and then choose some volunteers to go around and search for the corresponding fruit/veg items. Gather all the items together and display on the table for all the children to see.

Conclusion

Remind the children that Alec also provides people with water to make the seeds grow. In the Chaco, there isn't enough rain, so the seeds would not germinate or if they did the young plants would soon wither and die. Remember last week how we had to make the cotton wool damp when we planted the cress? We have to give plants just the right amount of water to make them grow. Alec gives people hoses with little holes in them so just enough water trickles out. Water is precious in the Chaco, so they don't want to waste any.



Session Three

Seed....Seed.... Seed....PLANT

Age Range: 4 to 11

Aim

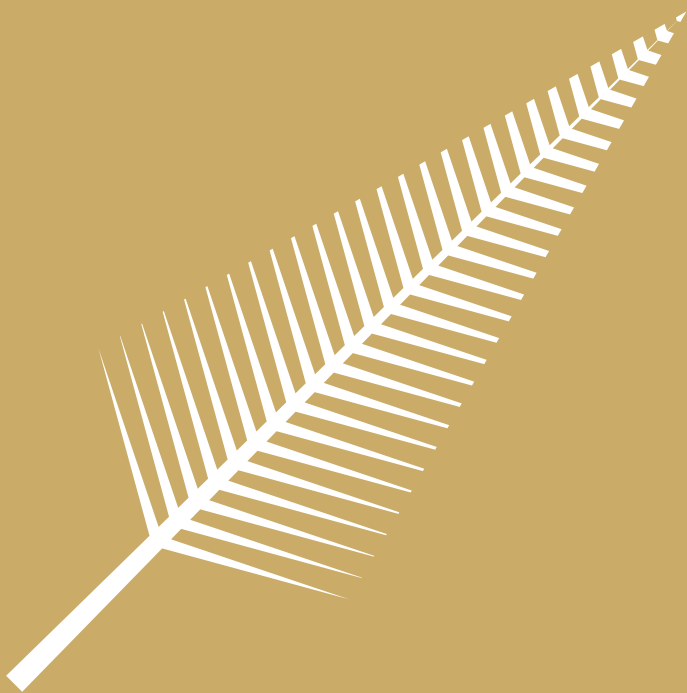
- To let off steam and use up some energy.
- To enjoy participating in a group activity.
- To bring back to mind the Garden Project and the parable of the Sower.

Instructions for Play

The children sit in a circle and one child is chosen from the circle to be the leader. The leader moves around the outside of the group, tapping each child lightly on the shoulder/head saying Seed...Seed... Seed....PLANT! in random sequence. Once PLANT is shouted out, the child who has been tapped gets up and chases the first child back to his/her place. If the child is caught before s/he reaches his/her place, s/he continues to be the leader. If not the second child becomes the leader and play continues.



Memory Verses



Memory Verse

The Bible says in Matthew 25:35

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

Instructions

Display the memory verse on a large piece of paper or on a screen.

Show the children some actions to go along with the words as you read the verse aloud.

Some ideas are:

Bible: make an open book sign with hands

Matthew: Make an m sign by placing 1st 3 fingers of left hand on palm of right hand

Twenty-Five: Hold up 10 fingers twice to show 20 and 5 fingers to show 25

Thirty-Five: Hold up 10 fingers three times to show 30 and 5 fingers to show 35

Hungry: clutch stomach – look sad

Gave: cup 2 hands and push away from you to show giving

Me/I: point to self

You: point to someone else

Eat: mime eating

Thirsty: put hand to throat and look sad/put tongue out

Drink: mime drinking

Stranger: cross arms over chest and look cold and lost

Invited: smile and mime beckoning someone towards you

You may want to type out the memory verse on slips of paper to send home.

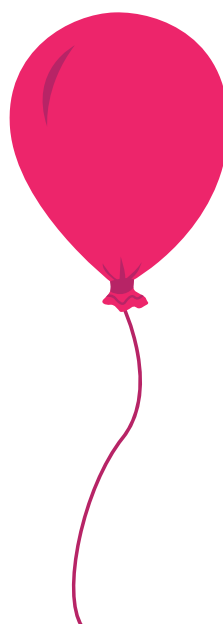
Session Two

Memory Verse

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22

Write the words of the memory verse on inflated balloons (1-2 words on each balloon). Choose some volunteers to hold the balloons. Read the verse out once and then ask the children to get into the correct order. For ideas to remove parts of the bible verse as children memorise see below.

- Prime one of the leaders to be a balloon snatcher- come and take away the balloons 1 or 2 at a time.
- Burst the balloons (The leader could run off with the balloon and burst it at the other end of the room or just outside the door so children can hear but it isn't too frightening. If doing this give the children some warning so it isn't unexpected.)
- One or two of the balloons could be blown up in front of the children at the start and not tied. Then at the right moment, let it go and watch it whizz round the room (children really enjoy this). *Choose a volunteer carefully for holding this balloon—a leader might be better.*

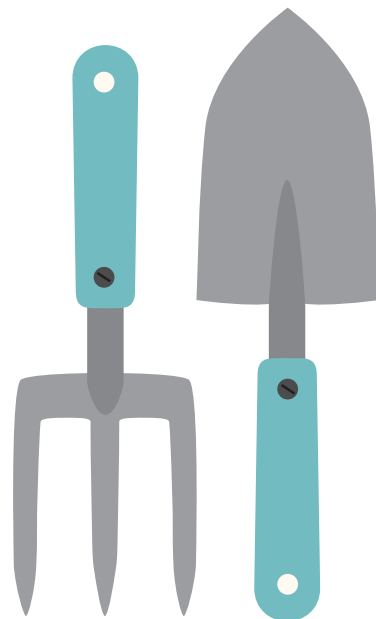


Memory Verse

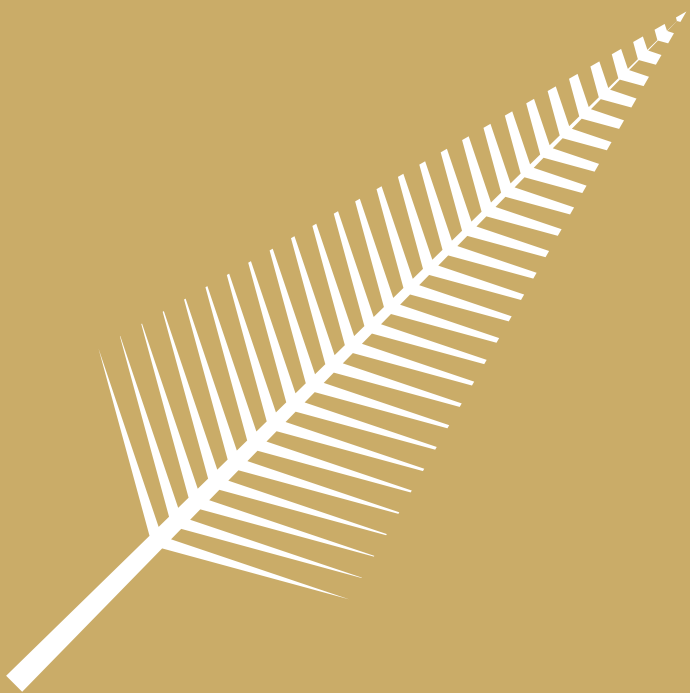
“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”
Ephesians 2:8

Use Power Point

Allow children to work out the words and then click forward to see each word appear.



Leader's Notes



Session Two

The Sower

Leader's Notes

Today we will be learning the Parable of the Sower. It is an interesting story that Jesus told to a huge crowd of people who were following Him. In it we are going to learn a lot of things about listening to and receiving God's Word. It is very important that we not only hear God's Word but also let it sink deep into our hearts.

LUKE 8:4

A parable is a story that uses something that we all know about very well (in this story it's about a farmer planting his seeds) to teach us something about God. Jesus tells the crowd of people the parable of the Sower. Jesus had a huge crowd following Him, but some of them were following Him for all the wrong reasons. They were following Him for the good things He could give them (maybe they wanted him to heal them, maybe they wanted him to be their leader) not for His message of forgiveness and salvation.

We are going to learn, as important as it is for us to follow Jesus; we need to make sure that we are following Him for the right reasons.

There are different things in this world that can get in the way and stop us from being close to Jesus. We need to be careful to keep our eyes on Him.

INTRODUCE THE VIDEO AND WATCH IT TOGETHER

LUKE 8:5-8a

Visual Aid

During the explanation it is helpful to have 4 trays of soil to show the children. Hard packed soil can be made by heavily watering soil and pressing it down firmly and letting it dry out. Also use a tray full of weeds (packed in tight so there is little room), tray with mostly stones and a little bit of soil and a tray of really good top soil or compost. A leader can move among the children showing each tray as the parable is explained.

Our story tells us of a Sower, and how he went out to sow (or plant) his seed. He sowed his seed in many different places. In those days when farmers planted their seeds, they scattered the seeds by hand. Sometimes the seed would fall on bad soil and not grow. We see that some seed fell on a path or busy road, and some fell on rocky soil. Other seed fell among thorns and weeds. Finally, we see that some fell on good ground.

The Sower and the seed stay the same throughout the story; nothing changes. The only difference in the story is the type of ground that the seed falls on.

Who is the Sower?

We are not told here in Luke, but in Matthew 13:37 Jesus said, "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man..." That's another name for Jesus so we know Jesus is talking about Himself. The seed is the word of God. The soil is the hearts of the people who listen to God's word. The story tells us there are different kinds of hearts.

Since Jesus is the Sower, we know that the seed is always good seed. The word of God is always good. It is the type of soil, or the type of heart that makes the difference. We either keep the Word of God or we do not.

There are many ways that God's Word can be heard: by reading the Bible, going to church, talking about Jesus with your family and friends, etc. The Bible says that God's word is powerful; it has the message of salvation and can help us to become more like Jesus. But what is most important is the state of our hearts as we listen to God's Word.

LUKE 8:12

Here we see a heart which is like hard soil. The seed cannot even begin to take root in such a hard soil. If we don't try to listen at all in church or Sunday school, if we don't think about God or read the bible during the week, if we pay no attention to God at all, our hearts are like this kind of soil. We cannot be saved unless we believe, and we cannot believe unless we listen to God's word and think about it.

LUKE 8:13

Here we see a heart that listens to God's word, but only for a short time. This person is interested in hearing about God at first. He keeps going only for a short time, but when he has a problem or he gets teased by his friends about being a Christian, he gives up. This person has never given all of his life to serving God and has never asked God to help him read, understand and follow the bible every day.

LUKE 8:14

This heart has heard the word and listens at first but is easily distracted and soon turns away from God. This person's life is too full of other things to leave room for God. He/she is too interested in money/clothes/possessions/friends and focuses on those things rather than God. The seed began to grow in this person's heart, but the soil was not worked properly. It was full of thorns. We need to be careful that our heart is not too full for God to fit inside of us. Remember, He deserves to be first in our hearts.

LUKE 8:15

This is an honest heart, ready to receive instruction and obey. This heart hears the word, understands it, takes it in and keeps it, just as the good soil receives and keeps the seed. The good soil is the heart that wants to hear and grow in the Lord. It wants only His way.

You could listen to all the words of Jesus but not hear them if you do not open your heart to what He is saying and obey Him. Those who really hear are the ones who really want to find the truth of Jesus. The heart that is made of good soil is the heart that tells the Lord it wants to not only listen to His word but obey it, a heart that wants to be made more like Jesus.

Session Three

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches”
Matt. 13:31-32

Lesson

Introduce the video and watch it together

Have mustard seeds available –ideally let every child hold one as you talk about the parable. You can get them from spice sections in supermarkets.

Have you ever seen a mustard seed? The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds. It is so small that if you were holding one in your hand and you dropped it you would have a very hard time finding it because it is so hard to see. Even though the mustard seed is so small when it is planted in the ground, it grows into a tree large enough for birds to stand on its branches and to make their nests in it.

When you look at this little mustard seed before planting it in the ground, you might think it would be impossible for a seed so tiny to grow into a tree. But our God turns that tiny seed into a wonderful place for birds to come and rest and sing.

When Jesus told this parable He compared it to loving God. When children, like you, begin to love Jesus, their love is like a tiny mustard seed before it is planted in the ground. It starts out very small at first. Then when you keep on listening to what Jesus says and obeying Him, the love grows bigger and bigger. Soon it will grow like the big mustard tree.

You can also find this parable in Mark 4:30-32; and Luke 13:18-19

Alec is making a difference in the lives of the Wichí people. He saw that people needed help and wanted to help. He could have said “what can I do? I am only one person, but he didn’t. He used his skills and developed the garden projects. Later on we will see some people Alec has helped.

What can you do for God’s Kingdom?

Session Three

People Helped Leader's Notes

Slide 2

Elias' Story

Alec writes:

Elías is a church leader. I offered support and he accepted it. The first thing we did was connect him to the main pipe so that he would have water at his house. He is full of thanks for the water connection as he had to go to his neighbour for his water before. He says that it was a very hot day when he was building the thorn fence around his plot. There he was sweating and his neighbour passes by with his hatchet on his shoulder off to work in the forest. He stops and sees Elías fencing his plot with branches and chuckles "why are you wasting your time trying to grow in this hard soil? You are foolish..." He carries on his way to work and Elías stays silent. After twenty days the same neighbour passes again with his hatchet on his shoulder and he sees the maize up to Elías's knee. All well irrigated, lovely and healthy. He stops again and is silent. Then he says, "I have to apologise Elías, I never thought you could do this on this land! Next year I want to do the same."

Slide 3

Macio's Story

Alec writes:

Macio Rojas is now 23 years old. He has always been deaf and due to that can't speak. The reason for this is malnutrition at birth. He is a faithful Christian who although deaf, has eyes that can perceive. He is always alert and lets you know if there is danger. I received a small donation and decided that Macio would have that money to build a fence of thorny branches so that he could sow his maize. Once he had made the fence, we connected him with the main water line. This gave him access to a good volume of water which permitted him to sow the maize. The first patch sowed was successful and he harvested it. Macio has caught the vision and is ready to go again. It is a delight to see him grow in confidence and develop new skills and have a definite sense of purpose for his life.

Slide 5

Balducho lives in one of the Chaco communities called Mission Chaqueña. With Alec's help he has produced a large tomato crop and can sell some to make money for his family.

Session Three

Slide 6

This is Elba Chilango from Carboncito (another one of the Chaco communities) and her daughter Albina. Elba joined in with Alec's Garden Project and has had great success with her crops.

Alec has competitions to help encourage families to put a lot of effort into their gardening. The more effort put in, the better the results and the more food for the family. Some families can sell some of their surplus food to make some money.

Elba and Albina won last year's prize for the best maize plot.

Slide 7

Orlando Espinoza has taken part in Alec's garden project and has produced a good tomato crop. Here we see Orlando's plot irrigated by his hand pump.

He has done this alone pumping all day. We would like to hook the hand pump to a little solar pump. The cost of this is around £600. We are looking for donors as it would show the way for many places where there are only hand pump wells.

Slide 8

Recently, Alec was able to provide the money to fit a solar powered water pump for Orlando.

Alec writes:

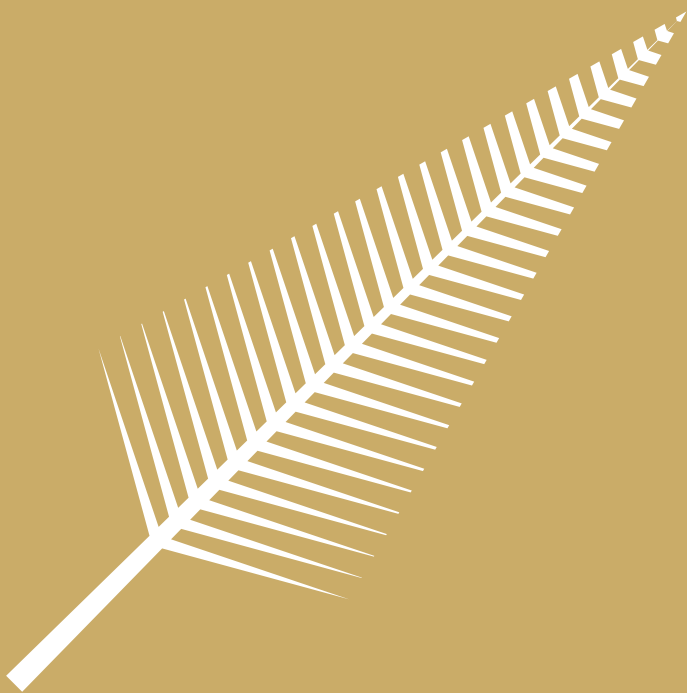
It was a lovely sight seeing water being pumped with solar panels.

A school from the south of Argentina donated the panels.

We hope that Orlando can now irrigate his plot without having to pump all by hand.



Activities

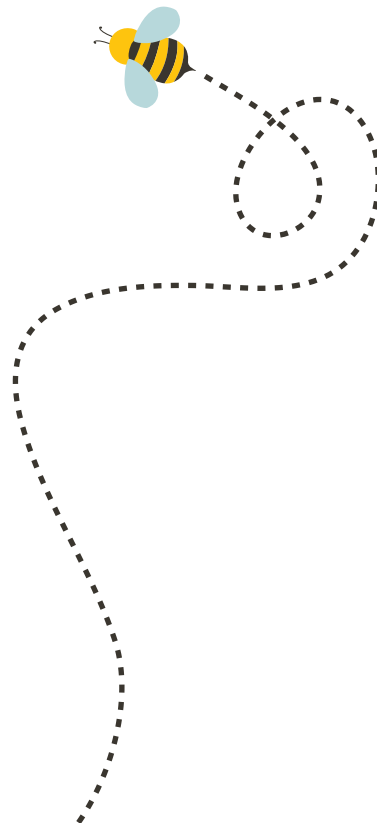


Session One

Growing a Cress Head

Copy and enlarge the instruction sheet or give out multiple copies so each child can see. Depending on age, allow children to be as independent as possible in reading and following the instructions and making their cress head.

Instruct the children to take their cress head home and watch what happens.



How to Grow a Cress Head

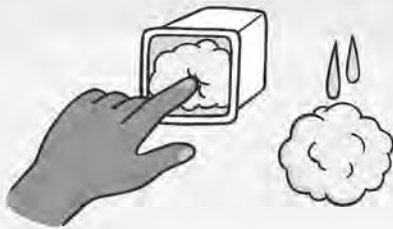


How to Grow a Cress Head



1 Remove the label from the yoghurt pot and paint a face onto it.

How to Grow a Cress Head



2 Wet some cotton wool and push it into the bottom of the yoghurt pot. Add another layer of damp cotton wool on top.

How to Grow a Cress Head



3 Sprinkle the cress seeds on top of the cotton wool.

How to Grow a Cress Head



4 Place the pot in a warm sunny spot.

How to Grow a Cress Head



5 After about a week your cress head will have a head of cress hair!

Session Two

Sunny the Sunflower

This is a fun and simple cut and paste sunflower craft that's perfect for young primary school children.

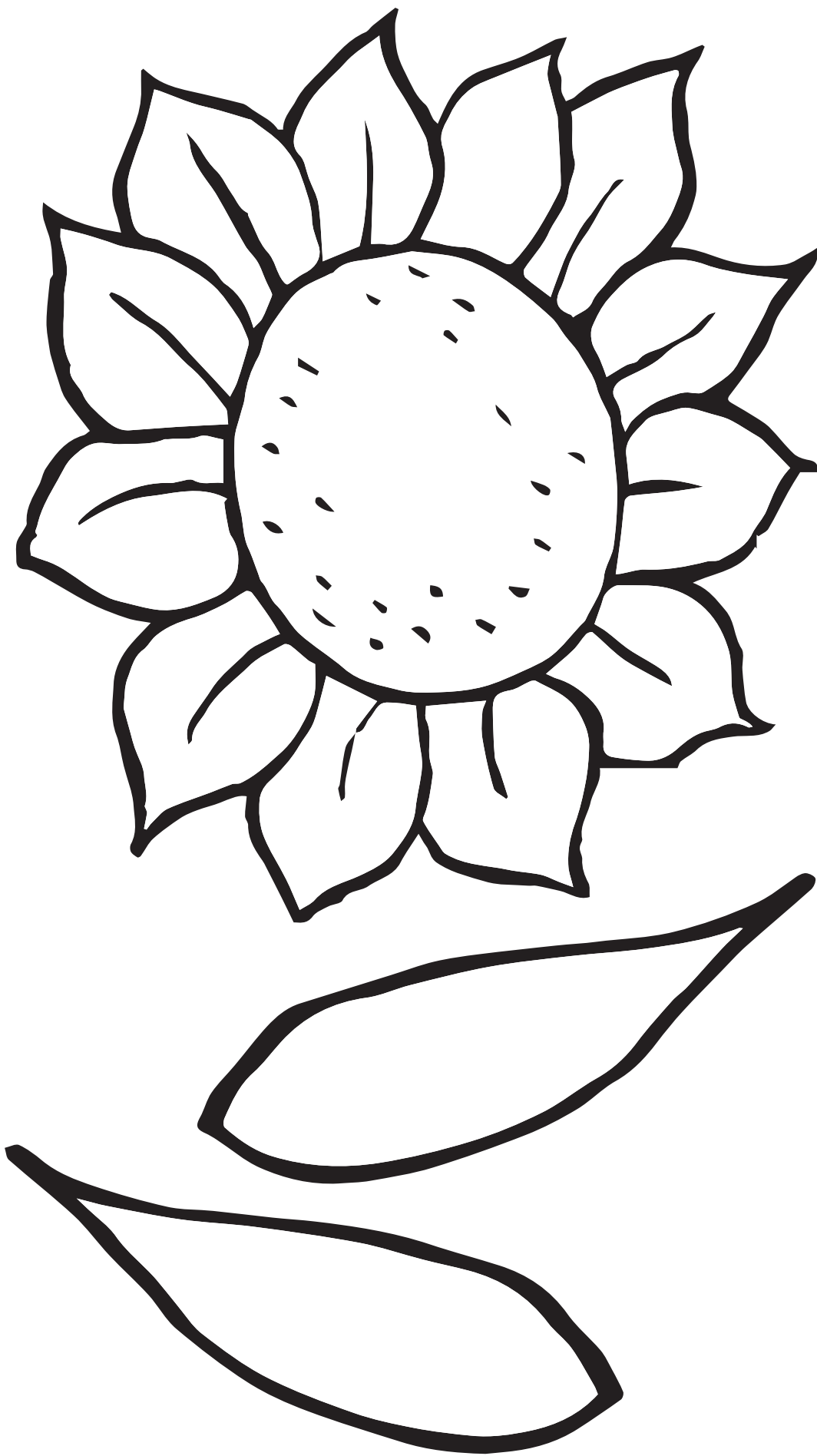
Materials:

- paper
- something to colour with
- scissors
- glue
- seeds (sunflower, popcorn or dried peas beans or lentils all work well).
- yellow tissue paper or something to colour with green tissue paper or something to colour with

Instructions:

- Print out the template.
- Cut out the template pieces.
- Glue the flower and leaves onto the stem. You can glue both onto a piece of white paper if that makes it easier to hang up later.
- Glue seeds into center of the sunflower.
- Glue balled up pieces of yellow tissue paper onto the petals.
- Glue balled up pieces of green tissue paper onto the leaves.
- If you don't have yellow tissue paper, you can make the petals some other colour (just don't call it a sunflower).
- If you don't have green tissue paper, you can just colour in the leaves and stem or print it on green construction paper.





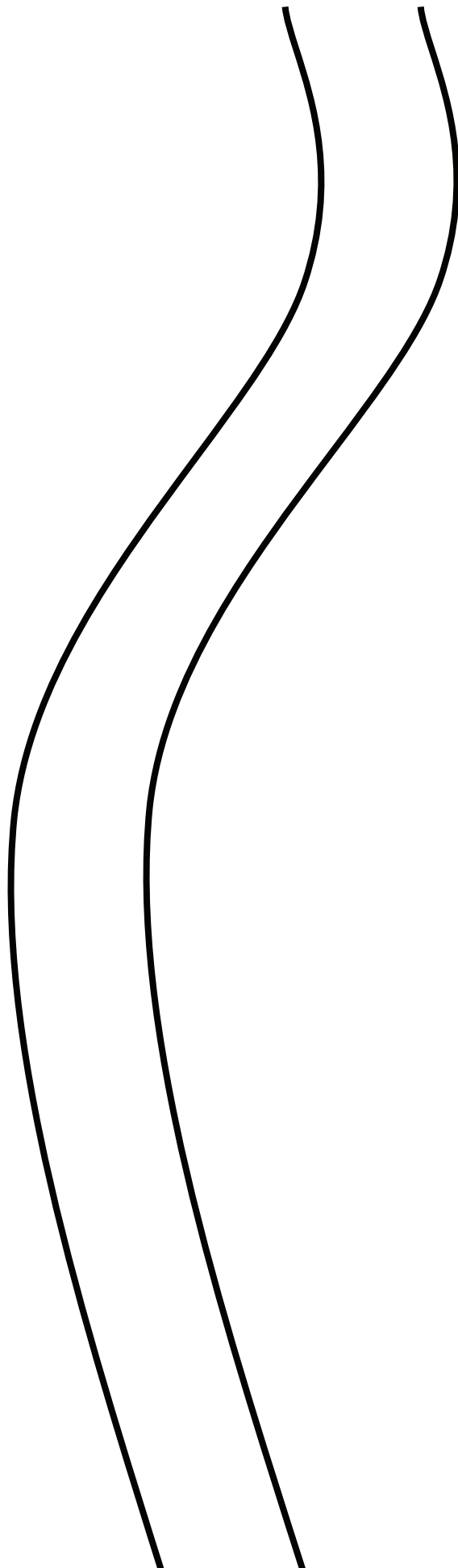
The Garden Project

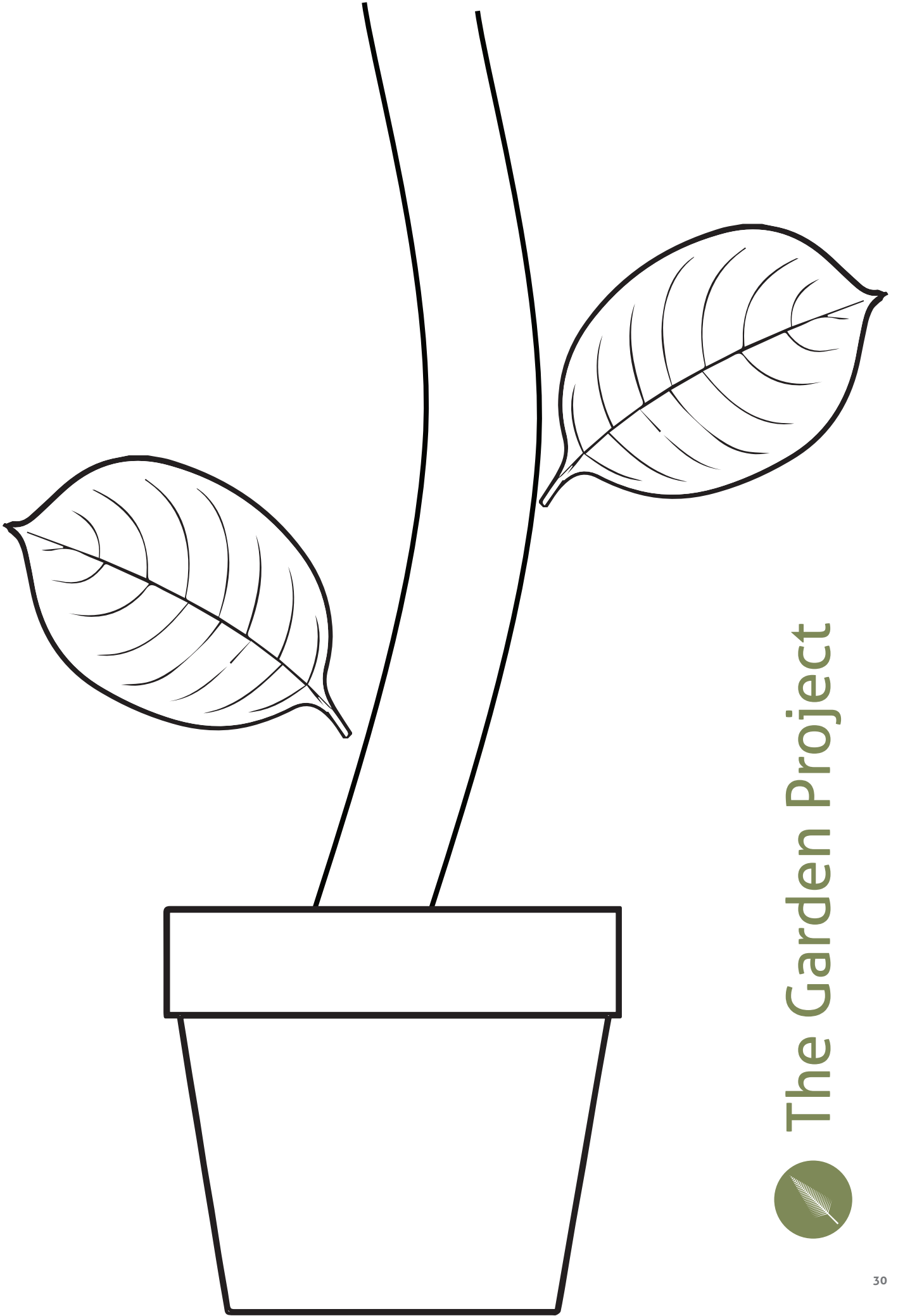
Session Three

Tall Plant Small Seed

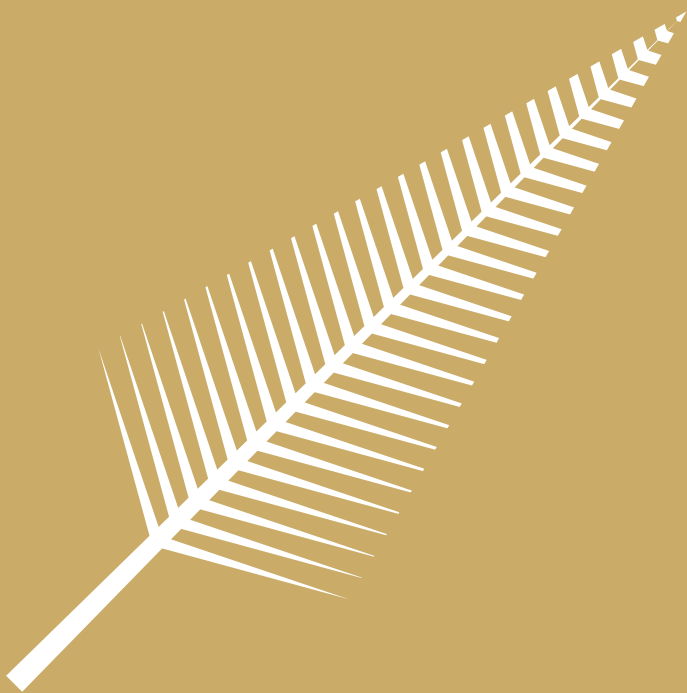
Print out the following template on 2 sheets of A4 paper, Glue or tape the pages together. Glue a small seed in the plant pot. Children finish drawing the tall plant, colour or add collage materials. They could draw or glue a flower on the top.



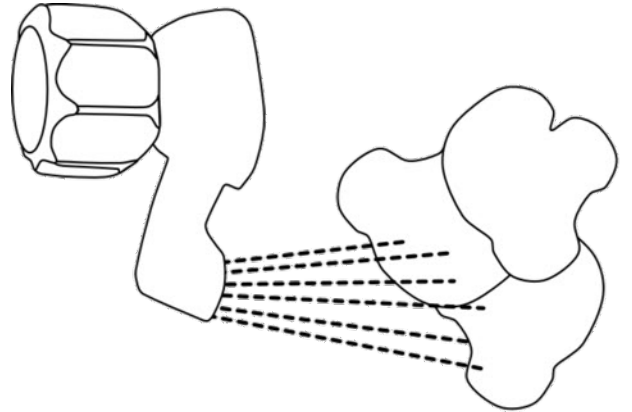
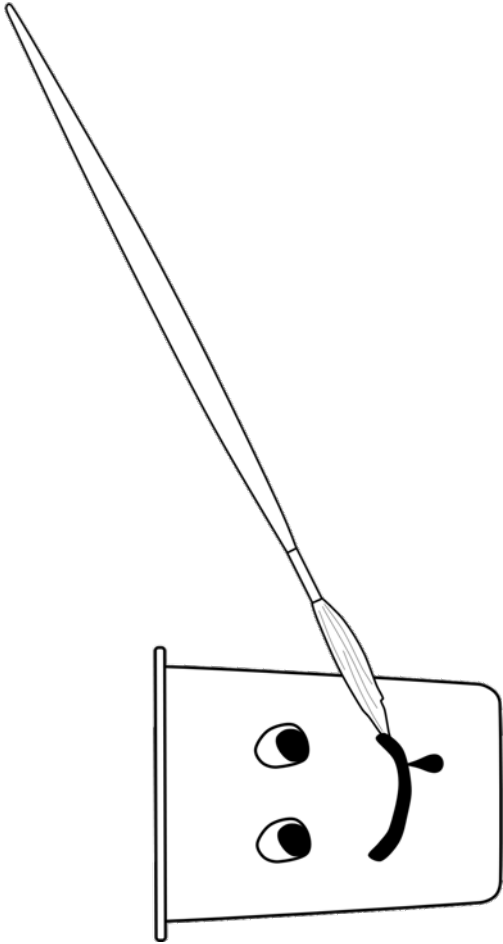
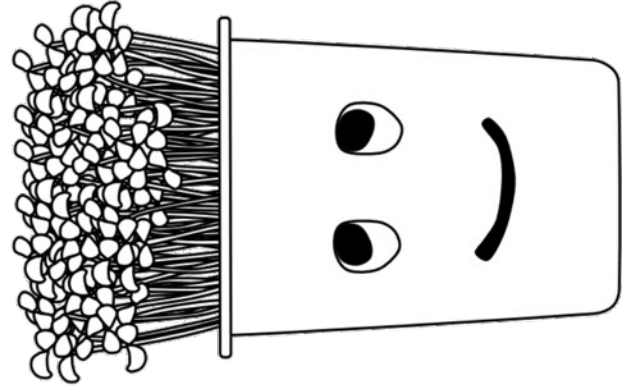
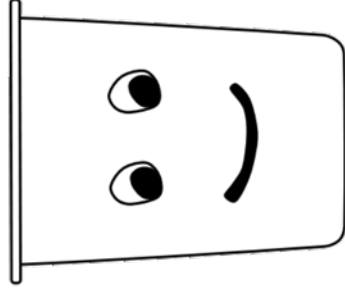
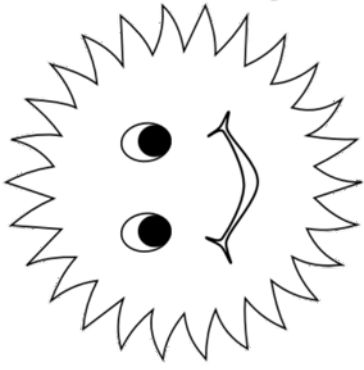




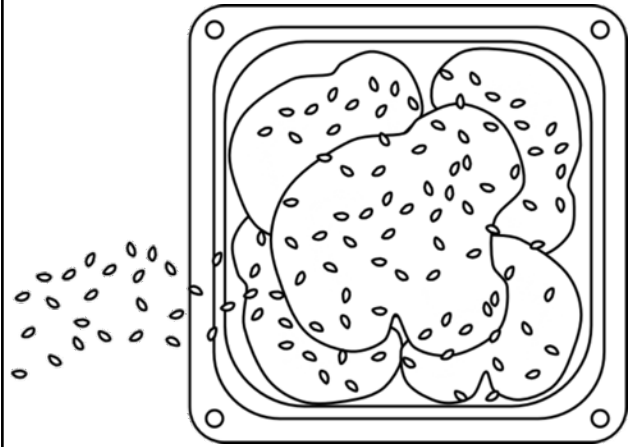
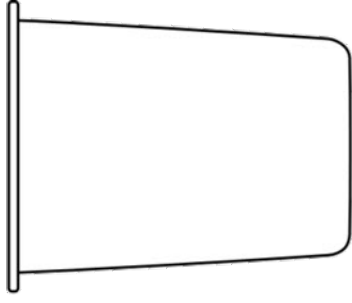
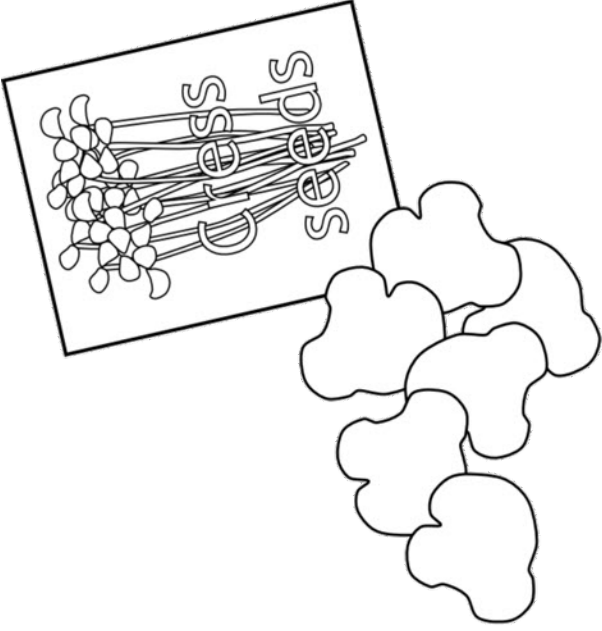
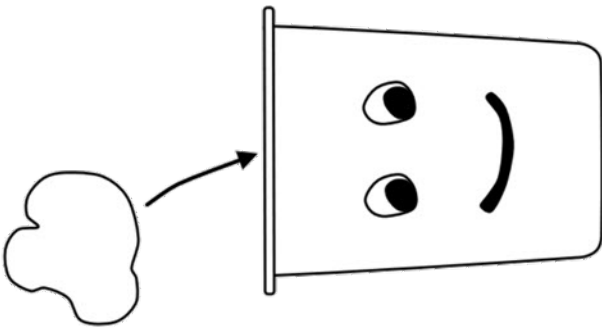
Extra Activities / Home Activities



How to Grow a Cress Head



How to Grow a Cress Head



How to Grow a Cress Head

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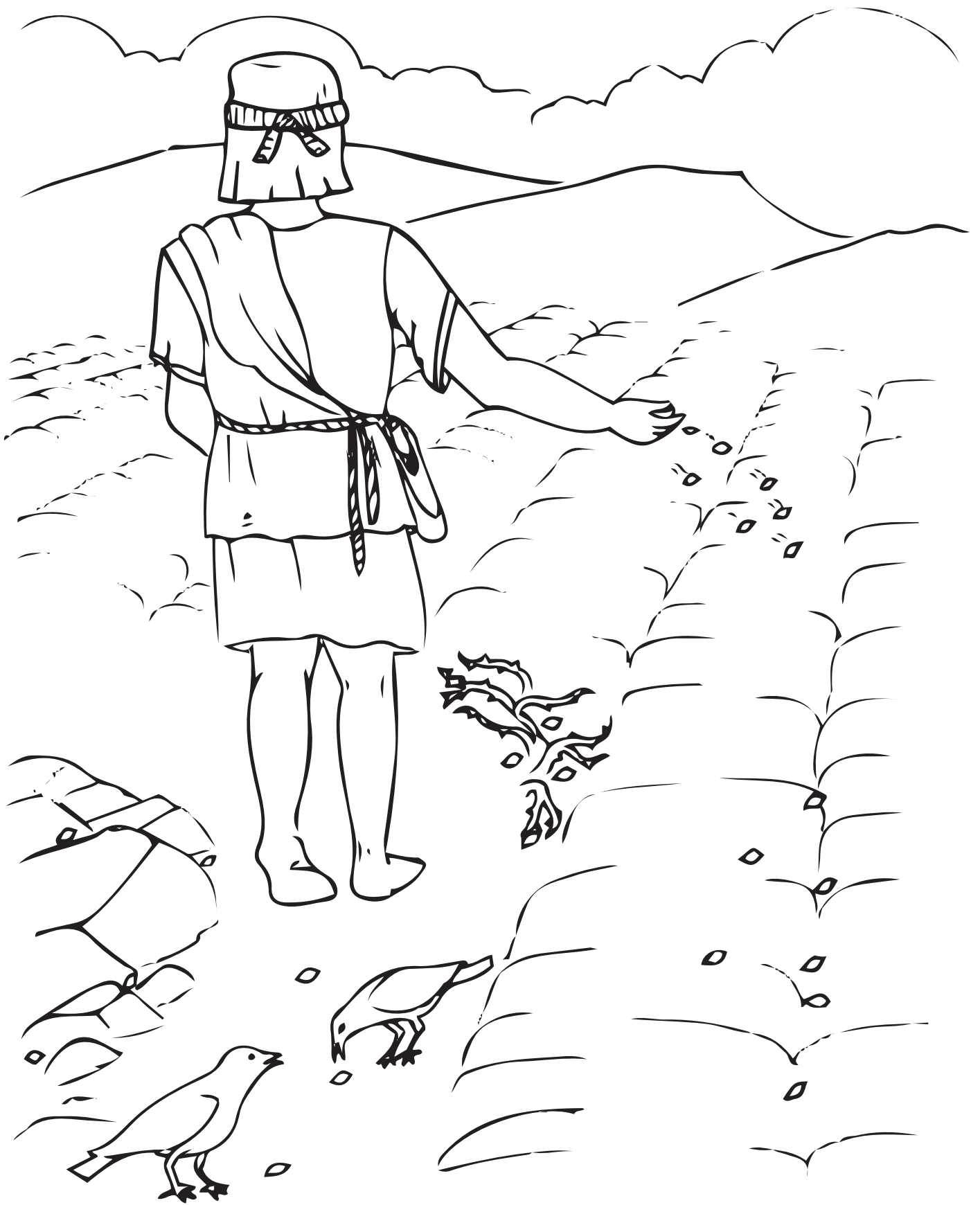
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How to Grow a Cress Head

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The Garden Project

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Ephesians 2:8

The Wichí Prayer

Dear God,

For the Wichí young people my age who are part of the Garden Project,
Lord help them today.

For Wichí families without gardens,
Lord create new opportunities for them.

For Wichí gardeners who labour in the heat,
Lord be close to them today.

For the forests devastated by bulldozers
Lord help us to value your creation.

We give you thanks for people such as Alec Deane,
Lord, bless him this day.

We pray that you will guide Alec in the many decisions he has to make,
Lord, guide him today.

Thank you for helping us to understand a little more about the wider world,
Lord, help us to bring change for good in your world.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1v22



Thanks for being part of the Garden Project

"We don't serve God to gain His acceptance; we are accepted so we serve God. We don't follow Him in order to be loved; we are loved so we follow Him."