# Sunflower Plant Life Cycle

Sunflowers are a type of flowering plant. There are around 60 different types of sunflower!

1

What happens during the first stage?

Seed and Germinating Seed

The seed is planted in soil or compost in spring.

The seeds have a hard coat.

They are black and white striped or just black.

The seed begins to sprout roots after 1-2 weeks.

2

What happens during the second stage?

Seedling and Shoot

A seedling grows and a few leaves appear on the stem.

Roots grow underground.

3

What happens during the third stage?

Bud and Bloom

The plant grows taller and stronger, towards the sun.

After 30 days, the bud forms.

The flower head opens.

After around 90 days, the sunflower will be fully grown.

4

What happens during the fourth stage?

Wilt and Regrowth

The flower petals will start to wilt and the plant dies.

The flower shrivels and the seeds from its head fall.

Some of the seeds settle in the ground and begin the new sunflower's life cycle.

# Questions about the Sunflower

1. What are sunflowers?

2. How many different types are there?

3. Name a colour that sunflowers can be.

4. What is the seed planted in?

5. When is the sunflower seed planted?

6. What colour are the seeds?

7. What grows underground?

8. What does the plant grow towards?

9. What happens after the flower petals start to wilt?

# Questions about the Sunflower Plant Life Cycle

## Answers

1. What are sunflowers?

   **Sunflowers are a type of flowering plant.**

2. How many different types are there?

   **There are around 60 different types of sunflower.**

3. Name a colour that sunflowers can be.

   **Sunflowers can be yellow, dark red and orange. (Accept only 1)**

4. What is the seed planted in?

   **The seed is planted in soil or compost.**

5. When is the sunflower seed planted?

   **The seed is planted in spring.**

6. What colour are the seeds?

   **Sunflower seeds can be black and white striped or just black.**

7. What grows underground?

   **The sunflower's roots grow underground.**

8. What does the plant grow towards?

   **The plant grows towards the sun.**

9. **What happens after the flower petals start to wilt?**

   **The flower petals will start to wilt and the plant dies.**

# Sunflower Plant Life Cycle

Sunflowers are a type of flowering plant. They originally came from North America. There are around 60 different types of sunflower! They can be yellow, dark red and orange. Two types are the 'American Giant' and the 'Big Smile'. The tallest sunflower on record was 9.17 metres (30 feet 1 inch) tall and was grown by Hans-Peter Schiffer in

1

## What happens during the first stage?

### Seed and Germinating Seed

During the first stage of the sunflower life cycle, the seed is planted in soil or compost in spring when it is warmer. The seeds are black and white striped or just black. The seeds have a hard coat that helps protect the seed. Next, the seed begins to sprout roots 1-2 weeks after planting.

2

## What happens during the second stage?

### Seedling and Shoot

During the second stage, a seedling grows above ground and a few leaves appear on the stem of the plant. Underground, roots continue to grow to keep the sunflower planted in the ground.

3

## What happens during the third stage?

### Bud and Bloom

During the third stage, the plant grows taller and stronger, facing towards the sun. After 30 days, the bud forms. Then the flower head opens and after around 90 days, the sunflower will be fully grown.

4

## What happens during the fourth stage?

### Wilt and Regrowth

At the end of the summer the flower petals will start to wilt. This is the final stage of the life cycle, when the plant dies. The flower shrivels and the seeds from its head fall onto the ground. There can be up to 2000 seeds! Some of the seeds settle in the ground and then begin the new life cycle of the next sunflower.

# Questions about the Sunflower

1. How many different types of sunflower are there?

2. What colours can sunflowers be?

3. How tall was the tallest sunflower ever grown?

4. Why is the sunflower seed planted in spring?

5. What colour are the seeds?

6. What grows above ground and underground during the second stage?

7. When does the bud form?

8. What happens when the flower shrivels?

9. How many new seeds can fall from the head of the shrivelled flower?

# Questions about the Sunflower Plant Life Cycle

## Answers

1. How many different types of sunflower are there?

   **There are around 60 different types of sunflower!**

2. What colours can sunflowers be?

   **Sunflowers can be yellow, dark red and orange.**

3. How tall was the tallest sunflower ever grown?

   **The tallest sunflower on record was 9.17 metres (30 feet 1 inch) tall.**

4. Why is the sunflower seed planted in spring?

   **The seed is planted in spring because it is warmer.**

5. What colour are the seeds?

   **Sunflower seeds are black and white striped or just black.**

6. What grows above ground and underground during the second stage?

   **A seedling grows above ground and a few leaves appear on the stem of the plant. Underground, roots continue to grow.**

7. When does the bud form?

   **After 30 days, the bud forms.**

8. What happens when the flower shrivels?

   **The flower shrivels and the seeds from its head fall onto the ground.**

9. **How many new seeds can fall from the head of the shrivelled flower?**

   **There can be up to 2000 seeds.**

# Sunflower Plant Life Cycle

Sunflowers are a type of flowering plant, which originally came from North America. The sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine. There are around 60 different species of sunflower! They can be yellow, dark red and orange. A popular tall variety is the 'American Giant', and one of the smaller types is called a 'Big Smile'. The tallest sunflower on record was 9.17 metres (30 feet 1 inch) and was grown by Hans-Peter Schiffer in 2014 in Germany! Sunflowers can be used to make lots of different products, such as oil, food and dye. Sunflower seeds can be eaten as a snack by animals and humans - some people sprinkle the seeds on salads.

## What happens during the first stage?

During the first stage of the sunflower life cycle, the seed is planted in soil or compost in spring when it is warmer. The seeds often have a black and white striped, hard coat, but can also be just black. The hard coat helps to protect the seed. Next, the seed begins to germinate. This is about 1-2 weeks after planting. The plant starts to grow and a tiny root reaches out of the seed and down into the soil.

## What happens during the second stage?

During the second stage, a green stem starts to grow above ground. This is a seedling. Underground, roots also continue to grow to keep the sunflower planted in the ground. The roots can grow as deep as 2 metres. A few leaves appear on the stem of the plant. The stem gets harder and thicker, making it stronger.

## What happens during the third stage?

During the third stage, the plant grows taller and stronger, facing towards the sun. As the plant grows bigger, a bud also forms after about 30 days. Slowly, the sunflower bud begins to unfold as the flower head opens. After around 90 days from planting, the sunflower will be fully grown. The head of the sunflower will be fully open and that is when you see the fully flowered, beautiful plant.

## What happens during the fourth stage?

At the end of the summer the flower petals will start to wilt. This is the final stage of the sunflower life cycle, when the plant dies. Eventually the flower shrivels and the seeds from its head fall onto the ground. A sunflower can produce up to 2000 seeds! Some of the seeds settle in the ground and then begin the new life cycle of the next sunflower.

# Questions about the Sunflower

1. How many different types of sunflower are there and what colours can they be?

2. Name two varieties of sunflower.

3. In what different ways can sunflowers be used?

4. Who grew the tallest ever sunflower? When, where and how tall was it?

5. When should you plant the seeds?

6. What is a sunflower seed like and what does it do?

7. Why do the sunflower's roots grow deep?

8. What forms after around 30 days? What forms after around 90 days?

9. What happens just before the plant completely dies?

10. What does the sunflower produce for the new life cycle? How does it do this?

# Questions about the Sunflower Plant Life Cycle

## Answers

1. How many different types of sunflower are there and what colours can they be?

   **There are around 60 different species of sunflower! They can be yellow, dark red and orange.**

2. Name two varieties of sunflower.

   **A popular tall variety is the 'American Giant', and one of the smaller types is called a 'Big Smile'.**

3. In what different ways can sunflowers be used?

   **Sunflowers can be used for oil, food and dye. Sunflower seeds can be eaten as a snack by animals and humans - some people sprinkle the seeds on salads.**

4. Who grew the tallest ever sunflower? When, where and how tall was it?

   **The tallest sunflower on record was 9.17 metres (30 feet 1 inch) tall. It was grown by Hans-Peter Schiffer in 2014 in Germany!**

5. When should you plant the seeds?

   **Sunflower seeds should be planted in soil or compost in spring when it is warmer.**

6. What is the sunflower seed like and what does it do?

   **The seeds often have a black and white striped, hard coat, but can also be just black. The hard coat helps to protect the seed.**

7. Why do the roots grow deep?

   **Roots continue to grow to keep the sunflower planted in the ground.**

8. What forms after around 30 days? What forms after around 90 days?

   **A bud forms after about 30 days. Slowly, the sunflower bud begins to unfold as the flower head opens. After around 90 days from planting, the sunflower will be fully grown.**

9. What happens just before the plant completely dies?

   **The flower petals will start to wilt. This is the final stage of the sunflower life cycle, when the plant dies.**

10. What does the sunflower produce for the new life cycle. How does it do this?

    **Eventually the flower shrivels and the seeds from its head fall onto the ground. A sunflower can produce up to 2000 seeds! Some of the seeds settle in the ground and then begin the new life cycle of the next sunflower.**