

The Six Parts of the Plant

Note to teachers: I had the students illustrate each of the 6 parts along with the written entries- 3 I composed, 3 they composed.

The Seed

I come in different shapes and sizes. I often travel to my final home by air, though I've been known to hitch a ride on an animal, float down a stream or roll down a hill. I began my life all contracted, but after some gentle coaxing by the rain and encouragement by the sun, I will eventually expand. The whole plant is waiting within my seed coat.

The Roots

I am fat and skinny, dirty and tangled. I reach through the soil and gather in nutrients and water for the rest of the plant. The earth is my home. I am most active in winter. My tendrils curl around soil particles like little hands clasping a ball.

The stem *(You compose this description.)*

Include the two different kinds of stem's (herbaceous and woody) usual colors, shape, posture (tall and straight) and purpose. Remember to write all of your descriptions in first person.

The leaf *(You compose this description.)*

Include where it grows, its different sizes and shapes, what it does for the plant and for all living things (food and oxygen)

The blossom

I begin as a contracted bud, then I open and expand. I am like a leaf transformed by light. I can be any color of the rainbow. My sap is turned sweet by sunlight and is called nectar. I store my nectar in a tiny cup that has many hair-like stamens all around it. When the pollen on the stamen's crown gets on the cup's top, it grows little tubes that give the seeds sunlight.

The Fruit (You compose this description.)

Include where it grows on the plant, its role for the plant, its gifts to us.

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