



## Making New Plants

*Plant Parts Week 4 reading page*

All living things have ways to make more of themselves. Birds lay eggs, mammals have babies, and most plants make seeds.

Our green plant friends come in many different sizes, shapes, and colors so it should not surprise you that they also have many different ways to make new plants, too. Here are three ways living plants make new plants:

### 1. Plants make seeds inside of flowers.

A majority of plants in our world make flowers. Although we enjoy flowers because they are colorful and sometimes smell good too, the reason plants have flowers is to make fruit and seeds. Many of these fruits become tasty treats for us like apples, oranges, and avocados. However, it is the seeds that are prizes for the plant — the fruits are just packages to protect them. Inside those little seeds are tiny new plants.

### 2. Plants make seeds inside of cones.

Have you ever seen a flower on a pine tree? Not all plants make flowers and fruits. There are some plants that make their seeds inside cones instead. The cones are usually made up of scales that help protect the seeds growing in the middle. Pine trees and other conifers that stay green all year round are the most common cone-making plants, but there are a few others too.

### 3. Some plants make spores instead of seeds.

There is a third type of plant that does not even make true seeds; they make new plants by making spores. Spores are tiny and really hard to see. Spores are made in plant parts called sporangia (spore-ANN-gee-uh). Ferns are common plants that make new plants using spores.

What do all these plants have in common? All three have roots, stems, and leaves, too. Also in common, they all make their own food through the process of photosynthesis. However, they get the chance to

be unique when it comes to how they make seeds and spores. Flowers, cones, and sporangia are all very important plant parts because they make sure we will always have new plants in our world.

## Reading Comprehension Questions

1. True or false: All plants make seeds.

2. Select the plant parts that make seeds:

- ☐ Cones
- ☐ Leaves
- ☐ Flowers

- ☐ Roots
- ☐ Stems
- ☐ Sporangia

3. What do fern plants make that helps them make new plants:

- ☐ Fruit
- ☐ Seeds
- ☐ Flowers

- ☐ Spores
- ☐ None of the above

4. Why do plants make seeds?

5. What do flowers make to help protect seeds? Give an example.