Growing Peanuts

Objective

The student will sprout peanuts and grow peanut plants.

Procedures

1. Provide copies of the student worksheet provided with this lesson.
   —Discuss the parts of the peanut plant. (See background.)
   —Students will label the parts of the peanut plant.
2. Bring raw (not roasted) peanuts to class.
   —Students will take the peanuts out of the shells and split them in half.
   —Show students the bump at one end of the opened peanut. This is the baby plant, or the embryo.
3. Shell several of the raw peanuts and spread them on paper towels in a pan.
   —Wet the paper towels and cover the pan with plastic wrap.
   —Students will observe changes in the peanuts and write their observations in a journal.
   —In a few days roots and stems will sprout from the peanuts.

Explain: The plant can get along without soil for a while because of the food stored in the seed. As the water soaks into the seed the food dissolves. It is broken into tiny bits that become part of the sap. The sap flows into the new roots and stems, bringing them everything they need until the seed runs out of food.

4. Place three of the peanut seedlings in paper cups filled with soil.
   —Snip both leaves off the first seedling. Snip just one off the second seedling. Leave both leaves on the third seedling.
   —Water the plants, and label them. Keep these plants in a warm place for a week.
   —Students will develop charts to keep track of the progress of each seedling. Can a plant grow without its seed leaves?
5. Students will use the Scientific Method to conduct further experiments with peanuts, as follows:
   —Soak shelled raw peanuts overnight.
   —Fill an aquarium or one-gallon clear glass jars with soil to within one inch of the top. (A glass container will allow your students to see the peanuts growing.) As an alternative, provide clear plastic cups so each student can have his/her own plant.
   —Students will plant peanuts one and a half to two inches deep and press the soil down firmly without packing it.
   —Keep the soil moist but not wet. Room temperature should be 65 degrees or more. Eighty degrees is ideal.
   —After the peanuts sprout (in five to eight days) give the plants as much direct sunshine as possible. Blossoms will appear about 45 days after planting.
   —Don't expect peanuts unless you can keep the plants growing at least three months.
   —Students will harvest peanuts by pulling up the plants when the tops are brown and dry.

Oklahoma Academic Standards

KINDERGARTEN
Life Science: 1-1. Earth Science: 3-1

GRADE 1
Life Science: 1-1,2

GRADE 2
Life Science: 2-1

Materials

raw peanuts
paper towels
plastic wrap
aluminum pan
aquarium, one-gallon clear glass jars, or clear plastic cups
soil

The Peanut Plant

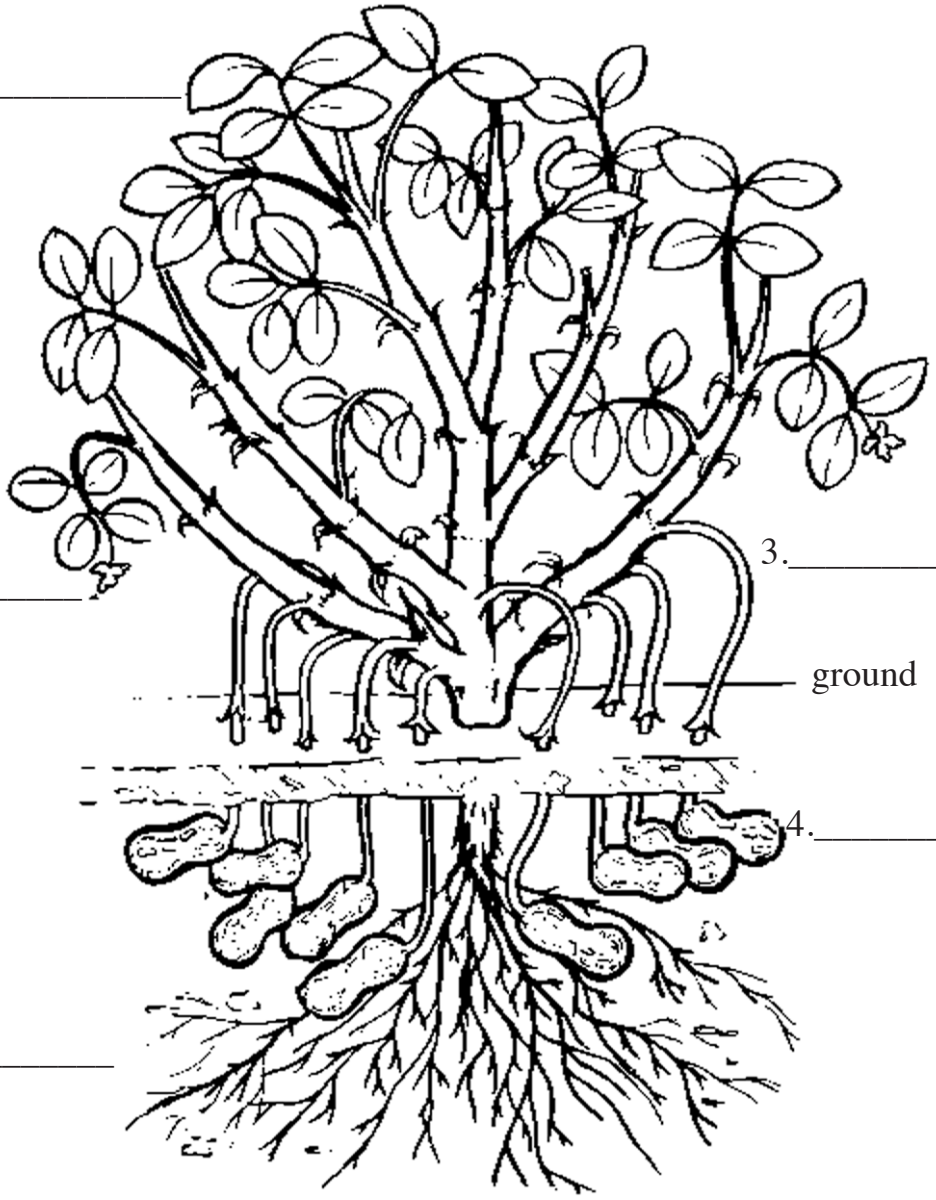
This is a picture of a peanut plant. It shows the five important parts of the plant—the leaf, the flower, the peg, the fruit and the root.

The peg is long and thin. It looks like a rope growing into the ground or reaching for the ground. As the end of the peg grows into the ground and gets bigger, it grows into a peanut.

The peanut is the plant's fruit.

Write these words on the lines where they belong.

flower root fruit peg leaf



Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is a program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.