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| **Plant growth and changes**  **Glossary of Important Terms** |

**Adaption:** A feature or characteristic of an organism that makes it better suited to its environment.

**Anther:** The male part of the flower that has a long stalk and a bulb with pollen grains on the tip end.

**Bulb:** An enlarged underground section of a stem (like a large bud) that will grow into a new plant when planted.

**Chlorophyll:** The green pigment in plant leaves and stems that is able to trap energy from the sun for the process of photosynthesis.

**Cotyledons:** The two halves of a seed that supply food for the embryo plant.

**Cutting:** A part of a plant capable of developing into a new plant.

**Deciduous:** A kind of tree or shrub that loses its leaves every autumn.

**Dispersal:** To spread out. Seeds are spread out away from the parent plant by wind, water, catapult seed pods, and by animals.

**Dormant:** To remain inactive when conditions are not suitable. Seeds are often dormant until conditions are right for germination.

**Embryo Plant:** The tiny plant within a seed.

**Erosion:** The wearing away by the action of water, wind or ice.

**Evergreen:** A kind of plant that does not lose its leaves every autumn, but instead remains green all year long. Conifers such as spruce and pine are evergreens.

**Flower:** The part of the plant that produces the seeds. Flowers are often very colourful and can be fragrant in smell to attract insects for pollination.

**Fruit:** The fleshy, often sweet part of a plant that holds the seeds. Apples, oranges and tomatoes are fruit.

**Germination:** The initial growth of a seed to produce a new plant. It does not need light or soil nutrients because the embryo plant draws on the stored food in the cotyledons.

**Leaves:** The green needle-shaped or broad flat structures on the branches of plants, which makes food through photosynthesis.

**Life Cycle:** The sequence of stages that organisms go through from egg to adult.

**Nutrient:** A substance that provides nourishment.

**Photosynthesis:** The process of making food (sugars) in green plants or organisms that contain chlorophyll.

**Pistil:** The female part of the flower containing the eggs in its swollen base near the bottom of the petals. The tip end is sticky and traps the pollen grains.

**Pollination:** The transfer of pollen from the male part (anther) to the female part (pistil). Pollination is done by insects or can be done by wind or water.

**Roots:** The network of tubules and fibers that grow from the base of the plant stem extending outwards underground. Roots absorb mineral nutrients and water.

**Runner:** Outgrowth of stems that extend along the ground which give rise to new plants at various points along its length.

**Seed:** A structure containing a tiny embryo plant and stored food, which can give rise to a new plant under suitable conditions.

**Stem:** The main body of a plant above ground that supports the branches and leaves.

**Tuber:** A short, fleshy, underground stem.

**Xylem:** Tiny tubules in plants through which water and dissolved minerals are transported from the roots to other parts of the plant.