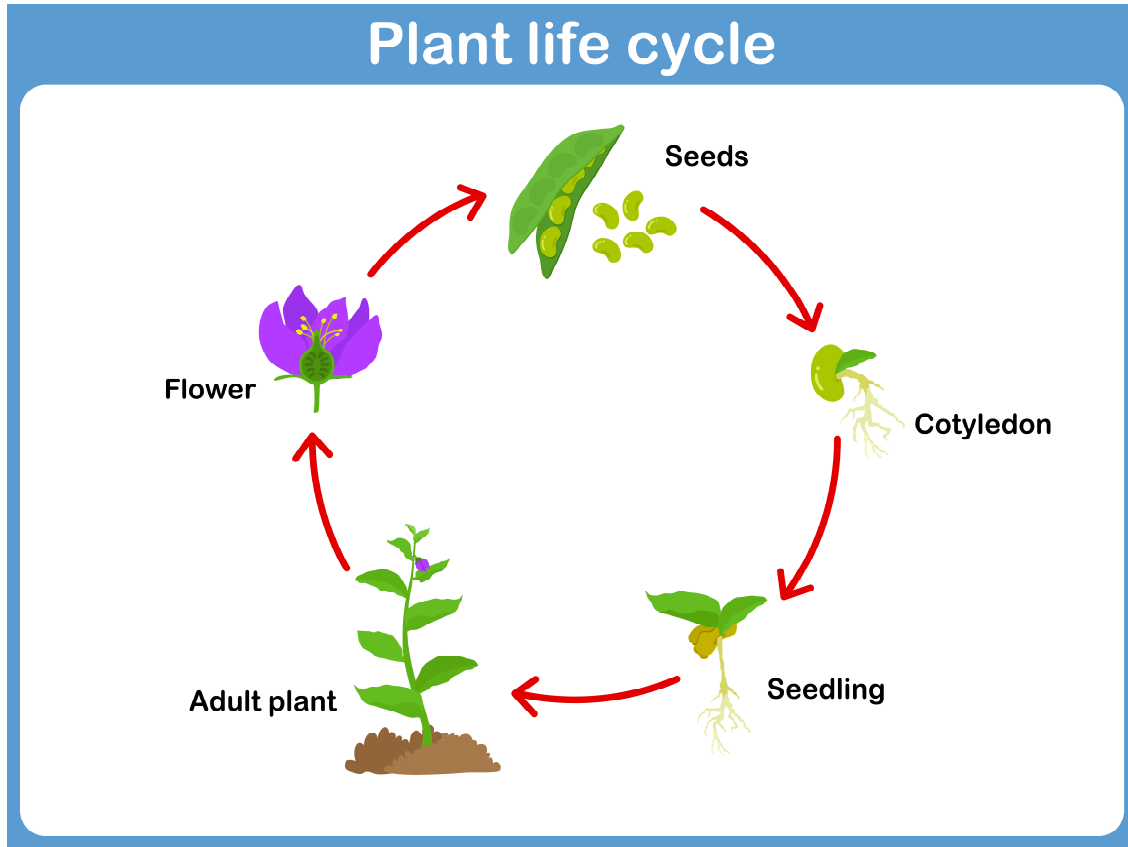


# Life Cycle of a Plant



A flowering plant begins as a seed. When planted in the ground, the seed germinates and begins to grow. Tiny roots work their way into the ground. The first leaf, called a Cotyledon, sprouts out of the seed and works itself up, out of the ground.

The plant that first appears is called the seedling. It is small and weak with a few small leaves. The seedling grows larger as it receives water and sunlight. The stem and roots grow longer, and new leaves appear on the plant.

When the plant is fully grown flowers begin to develop. New seeds form in the flower. The seeds in some flowering plants are spread to the ground by the wind, by animals or water. Plants that have fruits as their flowers will house the seeds inside the fruit. When the fruits are eaten or fall, the seeds are deposited on the ground. Once the seed finds its way into the ground the plant cycle can begin again.

