CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRIES™

Grade 2



How Does a Strawberry Grow?

Cultivate knowledge about the strawberry plant as students complete this informative science booklet.

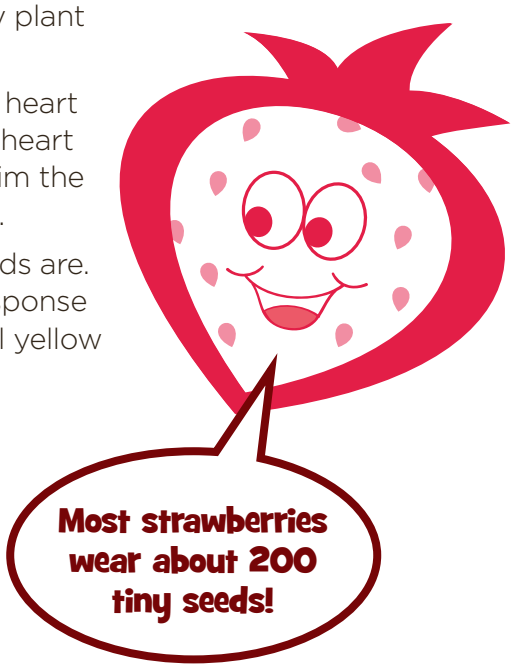


Each student needs:

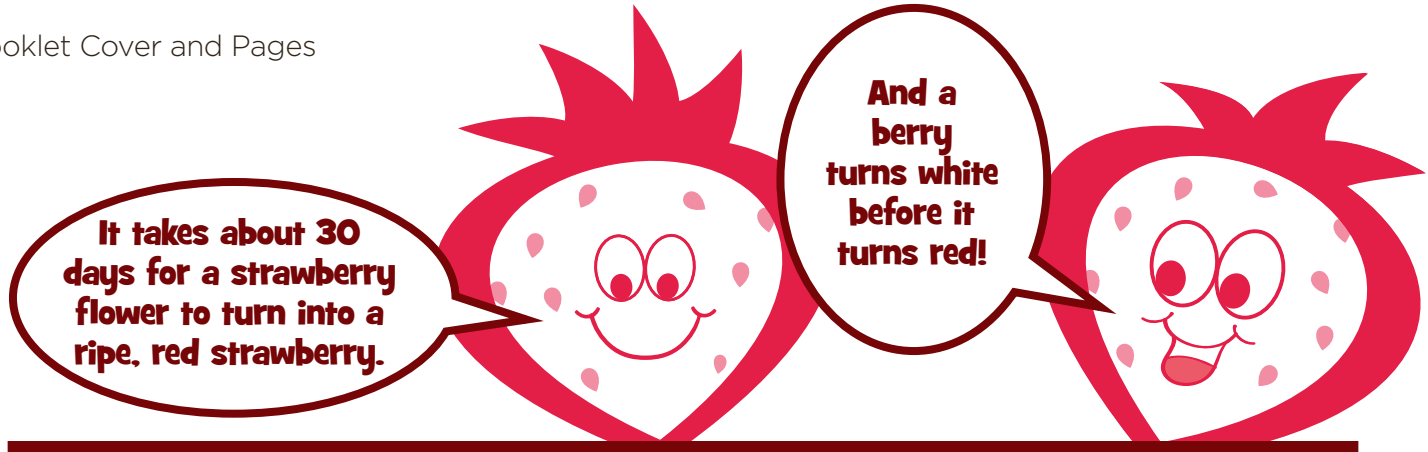
copy of the booklet
6″ red construction paper square
2″ x 4″ green construction paper rectangle
crayons or colored pencils
scissors
glue
stapler

Activity:

1. Find out which students have picked fresh strawberries. Invite these students to describe their berry-picking experiences for their classmates. Ask other students to describe times when they've eaten strawberries or foods that include strawberries.
2. Have each student write his or her name on the booklet cover. (Students do not cut the booklet pages apart yet.)
3. Read aloud the text on each booklet page. Then go back and read it again, pausing between each page so students can study and color the illustration. Discuss the growth cycle with students; ask students what information about the strawberry plant surprises them.
4. Remind students that strawberries are heart shaped. Instruct each student to cut a heart shape from his or her red paper and trim the green paper to make a strawberry cap.
5. Ask students where a strawberry's seeds are. When students provide the correct response *(on the outside)*, have them draw small yellow seeds on their heart cutouts and then glue their strawberry caps in place.
6. Have each student cut apart his or her booklet, put the pages in order, and then staple the stack near the center of the strawberry cutout.



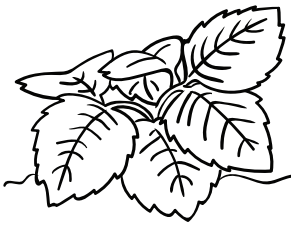
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The Strawberry Plant

Name _____

1



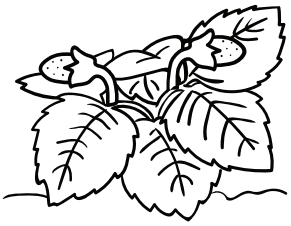
A strawberry plant grows close to the ground.

2



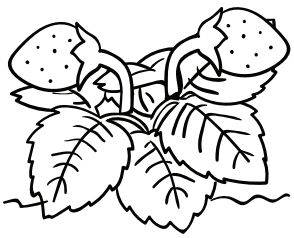
The plant produces white blossoms.

3



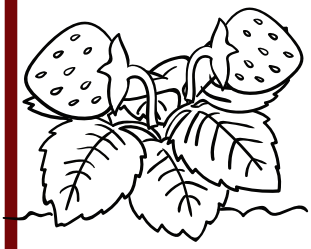
The white blossoms become small green berries.

4



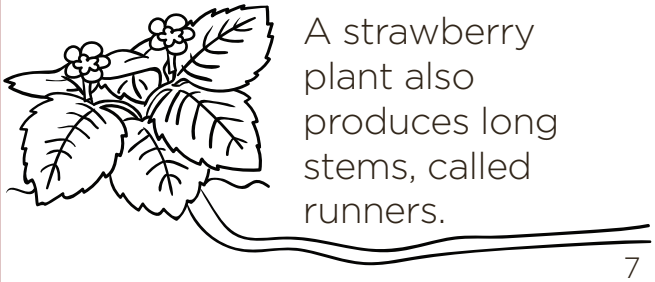
The green berries grow. They turn white.

5



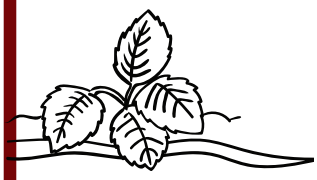
The white berries turn red. The strawberries are ready to pick.

6



A strawberry plant also produces long stems, called runners.

7



A runner can root and grow a new strawberry plant!

8

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Teacher Background Page

Know Your Strawberries

- Almost all of the strawberries you eat come from **California**.
- Strawberries are **low in sugar** and calories and high in vitamin C, potassium, folate, fiber, and antioxidants.
- The latest research suggests that just one serving of eight strawberries a day may improve **heart health**, help manage diabetes, support brain health, and reduce the risk of some cancers.
- California strawberries are fully **ripe when they are picked** and do not continue to ripen after harvesting. Fresh strawberries are packed by hand into the containers they're sold in right in the field.
- California farmers grow strawberries **year-round**, with April, May, and June as the peak months.
- There are **no genetically modified strawberries** commercially grown and shipped. Instead, using traditional plant breeding methods, different varieties of strawberries are developed for different climates and growing conditions.
- When buying fresh strawberries, choose berries that are **bright red**, have a natural shine, and have fresh-looking green caps. Refrigerate them and keep them dry until serving. Once you are ready to eat, rinse the strawberries in cool water and gently blot them dry.
- In a recent survey, more people named strawberries as their **favorite fruit** than any other fruit. Strawberries account for two-thirds of the berry sales in U.S. supermarkets.
- Ancient Romans and Greeks ate strawberries. In the middle ages, strawberries were carved into designs in churches because they **represented goodness**.
- May is **National Strawberry Month**.

Get a whole crop of fascinating and fun strawberry facts and recipes:

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