# Sunflower Survival Tools

Use evidence to connect plant structures with their jobs.

**L.3.1.2** "Examine evidence to communicate information that the internal and external structures of plants (e.g., thorns, leaves, stems, roots, or colored petals) function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Circle each sunflower structure named in the passage. Underline the words that tell how it helps the plant survive, grow, or make seeds.

### How a Sunflower Grows

1. At the edge of a school garden, a sunflower stands taller than a third grader. Its wide leaves catch sunlight. The plant uses that light to make food for growth. Below the soil, many roots spread out. They take in water and help hold the tall plant in place when wind blows. A sunflower needs both light and water to keep growing.

2. Inside a sunflower stem are tiny tubes. Some tubes carry water from the roots up to the leaves. Other tubes carry food made in the leaves to parts of the plant that need it. The firm stem also holds the leaves up in the light. These hidden tubes and the firm stem help the whole plant grow.

3. Later, the sunflower's yellow petals stand out in the garden. Bees visit the flower for nectar. As they move, they can carry pollen from one flower to another. After pollen reaches the right part of a flower, seeds can form. Each seed may grow into a new sunflower. The bright petals help bring in visitors, so the plant has a better chance to make seeds.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the sunflower's leaves help it grow? Use evidence from the passage.

2. What are two ways the roots help the sunflower survive?

3. What do the two kinds of tubes inside the stem carry, and how does this help the plant?

4. How can the sunflower's yellow petals help it make seeds?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a sunflower growing beside a tall fence that blocks light near the ground. In three sentences, explain how two different structures from the passage could help it grow there. Include a fact from the passage as evidence.

ANSWER KEY

# Sunflower Survival Tools

GRADE 3 · L.3.1.2

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each sunflower structure named in the passage. Underline the words that tell how it helps the plant survive, grow, or make seeds. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How do the sunflower's leaves help it grow? Use evidence from the passage. | **The wide leaves catch sunlight, which the sunflower uses to make food for growth.** |
| 2 | What are two ways the roots help the sunflower survive? | **The roots take in water and hold the tall plant in place when wind blows.** |
| 3 | What do the two kinds of tubes inside the stem carry, and how does this help the plant? | **One kind carries water from the roots to the leaves. The other carries food from the leaves to parts that need it, helping the plant grow.** |
| 4 | How can the sunflower's yellow petals help it make seeds? | **The bright petals help bring bees to the flower. Bees can carry pollen between flowers, which helps seeds form.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The fence blocks light near the ground, but the sunflower's firm stem holds its leaves up in the light. The passage says the wide leaves catch sunlight, which the plant uses to make food. Together, the stem and leaves help the sunflower grow beside the fence.

Accept answers that connect each named structure to its function using passage evidence. For Part 3, look for three sentences about two structures and a clear connection to the shaded setting.