



Gum

Australian Native Seeds



Wattle

What does a native seed
need to wake up and grow?



Banksia



Sheoak





Australian Native Seeds Nature Study

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About This Resource

The Australian Native Seed Nature Study has been created and designed in Canva, bringing together a mix of my own photographs, generously contributed images, and selected images and design elements from the Canva library.

Where individuals have contributed photographs or other material, credit has been given where appropriate. Personal photographs have also been included throughout the study to make the learning feel practical and authentic.

Canva images and design elements have been used to help bring the pages together visually. In contrast, the activities, written content and overall resource design have been created specifically for Nature Study Australia.

A big thank you to everyone who has shared photographs, knowledge and practical advice along the way. Your contributions have helped make this study a much richer hands-on exploration of our amazing Australian native seeds.

Image Credits & A Big Thank You

Seeds, planting pots, seedling images:
Rickey Egel

A big thank you to Rickey for sharing his knowledge and helping me choose suitable native seeds for this study. From seed selection and soil types to pre-treatment methods, planting and plenty of helpful growing tips, his advice has helped bring this native seed study to life.

Thanks, Rickey, for sharing your time, knowledge and seed-growing wisdom with us!

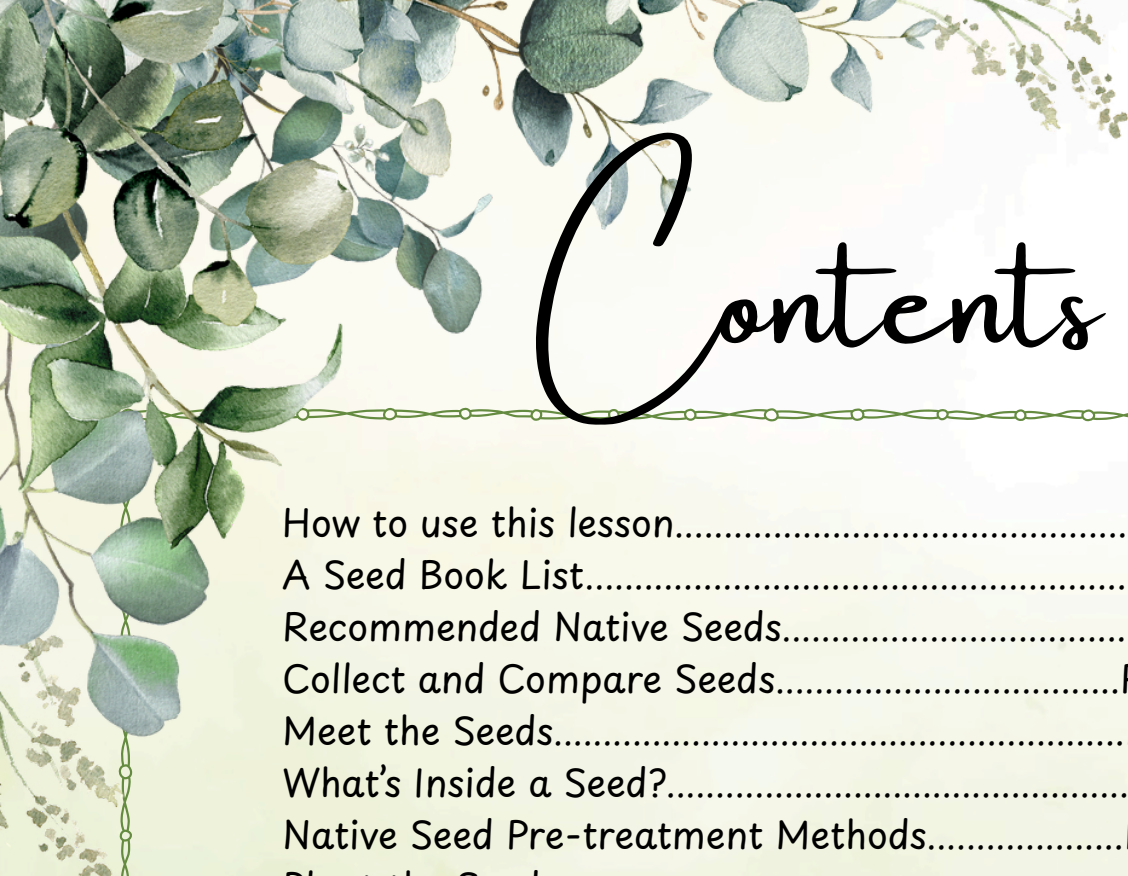


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Australian Native Seeds

How to use this lesson

This Australian Native Seeds Nature Study invites children to explore the fascinating variety of seeds found in Australian plants. We will begin by examining and comparing different seeds, then we'll choose one or more easy-to-grow native species to plant.

Follow the planting and care instructions, record changes in a nature journal, and measure new growth. The study can be enjoyed as a single lesson or over several weeks as students observe germination, seedling development and transplanting.

Suitable for:

Mixed-age children, preschool to secondary students.

Lesson length:

- One introductory lesson: 60–90 minutes.
- Daily observations: 5–10 minutes.
- Investigation period: 2–4 weeks.
- Transplanting activity: approximately 1–3 months after germination, depending on the species.

Nature Study Focus

Students will:

- examine and compare Australian native seeds.
- investigate how seeds germinate.
- discover why some seeds need fire, heat, water or other triggers.
- plant and care for native seedlings.
- record scientific observations.
- calculate germination success.
- learn when and how to transplant seedlings.
- consider how native plants support Australian wildlife.

Recommended Native Seeds

Choose commercially supplied seed from species suited to your local climate. Local native nurseries can help identify plants that occur naturally in your area. Or find a seed bank where locals gather to swap seeds. Do not collect native seeds from conservation parks without checking if you need a license to do so.

Swan River Daisy

Brachyscome iberidifolia

Best beginner choice:

- Small flowering plant.
- Suitable for pots and garden beds.
- Commercial seed can germinate within 2–12 days, often within 2–4 days.
- Produces white, pink, mauve or purple flowers.
- Prefers a sunny position and well-drained soil.

In colder areas, start the seed in pots or trays and plant outside after the risk of heavy frost has passed.



Paper Daisy

Xerochrysum or *Rhodanthe* species

Best for studying seed dispersal:

- Usually easy to grow from fresh seed.
- Seeds have fine, parachute-like structures.
- Often germinate within several days.
- Flowers attract bees and other insects.
- Excellent for pots, garden beds and pollinator gardens.
- Paper daisies naturally produce light seeds that can be carried by wind.



Fresh daisy seed generally gives the best germination results.

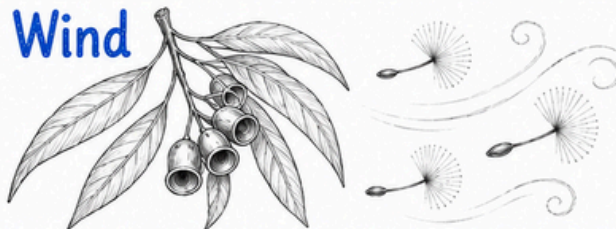
Collect and Compare Seeds

Let's Investigate

Collect a variety of native seeds, pods and capsules from your garden or local seed bank. Place them next to each other with their label and take a closer look at their colour, shape, size and texture. Are they smooth, rough, shiny, hairy, winged or hidden inside a woody pod? Sort them into groups and notice the differences between each one. How do you think each seed is distributed?

How Native Seeds Travel

1 Wind



Light, fluffy or winged seeds float or spin through the air on the breeze.

2 Animals



Birds and mammals carry seeds to new places. Ants also collect seeds with nutritious attachments called arils.

3 Fire



Some woody seed pods stay closed for years until bushfire heat helps them open.

4 Explosion



As some pods dry, pressure builds until they suddenly split and fling seeds away.

5 Water



Rain, floods and flowing streams can carry floating seeds across the landscape.

What's Inside a Seed?

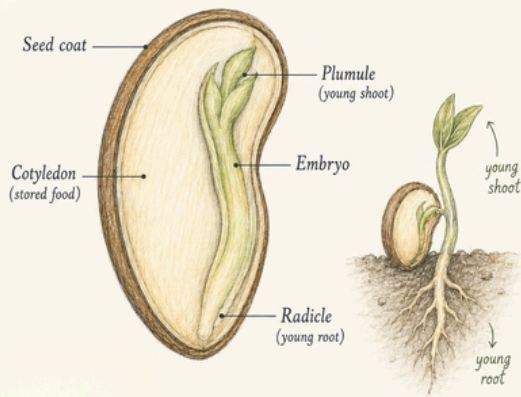
Seeds are tiny miracles

A seed may look small and simple on the outside, but inside it holds everything needed to begin a new plant. The seed coat protects the delicate parts within, while the embryo is the tiny developing plant. It already has the beginnings of a root and shoot, along with stored food to help it grow before it can make its own energy from sunlight.

What do seeds need to wake up?

When the seed receives the right amount of water, warmth and air, it begins to wake up; the root pushes down into the soil, and the shoot reaches upwards towards the light.

Seed Anatomy

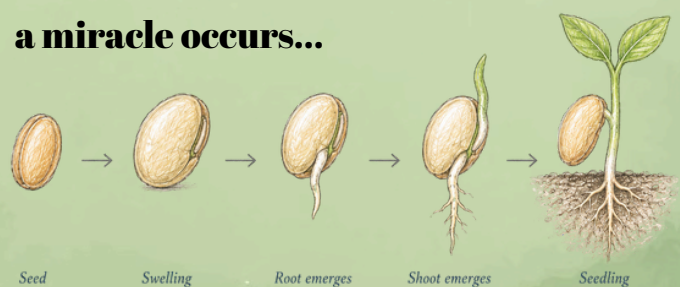


Germination

Germination is the beginning of a seed's journey into a new plant. When the seed coat becomes wet, it begins to swell and soften. The first root, called the radicle, pushes down into the soil, while the young shoot grows upwards towards the light. The seed uses its stored food until the first leaves open and the new seedling can begin making its own food from sunlight.



a miracle occurs...



Is This Plant Right for My Place?

Research an Indigenous plant to discover if it is suitable for your own local area. Record your findings below.

Plant Name: _____ Common Name: _____ Date: _____

Where I live (suburb/town & region): _____

1 Is it native to my local area?

Does it naturally occur (or historically occurred) in my district?
What did you find out?

2 What habitat does it naturally grow in?

Creek line, woodland, coastal dune, grassland, rocky slope,
wetland, gorge, open plain or other?

3 What soil does it prefer?

Sand, clay, loam, limestone or rocky soil? Drainage like?
Soil pH (if known)?

4 How much sun does it need?

Full sun / Filtered light / Part shade / Shade

5 How much water does it need?

Average rainfall in my area: _____ mm per year
Dry / Moist / Waterlogged / Occasionally flooded?

6 What is the local climate?

Rainfall pattern, summer heat, winter cold, frost,
wind, elevation.

7 What will the plant look like when mature?

Growth habit (tree, shrub, grass, groundcover, climber or herb)
Height: _____ Width: _____
Evergreen / Deciduous
Any other notes:

8 What does it provide for wildlife?

Nectar, pollen, seeds, fruit, foliage, caterpillar food,
nesting material, shelter or habitat?

9 When does it flower and seed?

Flowering time: _____
Seeding time: _____

10 How is it propagated?

Can seed be sown directly? Does it need pre-treatment?
(Hot water, scarification, smoke, stratification, other?)
Details:

11 When is the best planting time locally?

Season(s) recommended for planting in my area:

12 Where did the seed or plant come from?

Local provenance (e.g. collected within local region)?
Source details:

13 Can it be collected legally and responsibly?

Do I need permission or a permit? Where can I collect
responsibly?
Notes:

14 What preparation and ongoing care will the site need?

Weeds, grazing animals, compacted soil, drainage,
watering, mulching, protection?

15 Are there special local restrictions?

Rules for planting on nature strips, reserves, school
grounds or other public land? (Council/land manager
requirements)

Other interesting facts I found:

Where I found my information:

Is this plant right for my place?

Tick what applies:

- ☐ Yes - it suits my local area and my planting site.
☐ Maybe - it could work with some extra care.
☐ No - it is not suitable for my area.
☐ I need more information.
☐ Other notes: _____

God's Amazing Seed Design



Have you ever stopped to think about how incredible a tiny seed really is? God designed every seed with everything it needs to protect new life, grow into a plant and produce more seeds. Something so small can grow into a towering tree, a colourful flower or a plant that provides food — what an amazing glimpse of God's creativity and power!

Memory Verse

Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so.

Genesis 1:11



Day 3 of Creation

On Day 3 of Creation, God created the plants. But He did something especially clever — He placed seeds inside plants so they could continue producing more plants.

According to Their Kinds



The Bible tells us that plants reproduce 'according to their kinds.' Plant an apple seed and you won't suddenly grow a watermelon! A pumpkin seed will never turn into an oak tree. Each seed contains its own special instructions for what it will become. God is a wonderful Designer, and we can see His order and attention to detail everywhere in creation.

A Tiny Living Plant



A seed may look dry, hard and lifeless, but hidden inside is a tiny living plant waiting for the right conditions. Add moisture, warmth and the right growing environment, and that little seed begins to wake up. The seed coat protects everything inside until it is time to grow.

Think About It

Why do you think God gave seeds a protective outer coat?



What can the order we see in a garden teach us about God as Creator?



How might our faith be a little like a seed — beginning small, then growing as we read God's Word, pray and learn to trust Him?



Activity Ideas

Genesis 1:11 Mosaic Garden Art

Create a beautiful seed mosaic while remembering that God filled the earth with many different kinds of seeds.

Supplies Needed



- Heavy cardstock with a simple outline of a flower or tree
- Liquid school glue
- Paintbrushes
- Bowls of colorful seeds and dried goods
- Green split peas, orange lentils, black beans, yellow corn kernels and wild birdseed



green split peas



orange lentils



black beans



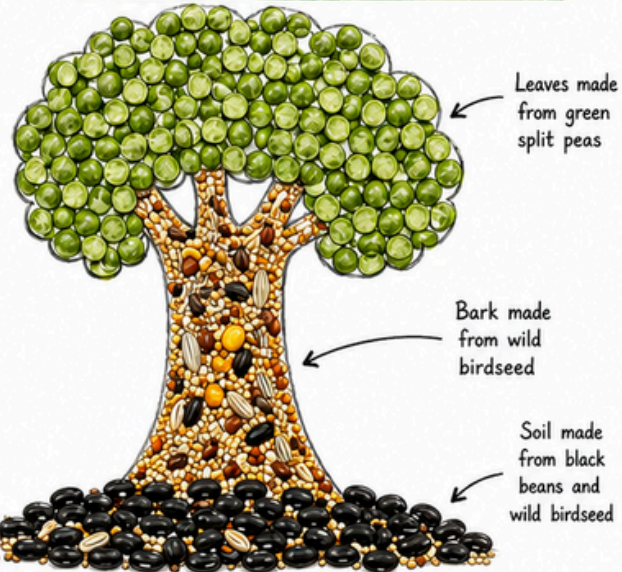
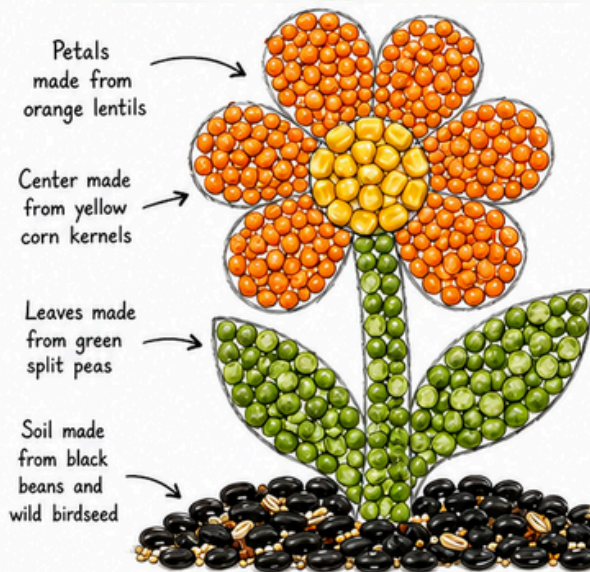
yellow corn kernels



wild birdseed

What to Do

- 1 Give each child a paintbrush and a small cup of liquid glue.
- 2 Paint glue onto one section of the tree or flower outline at a time.
- 3 Press the colorful seeds into the glue to fill the design.
- 4 Use different seeds for different parts, such as green split peas for leaves, lentils for petals and black beans for the dirt.



The Lesson

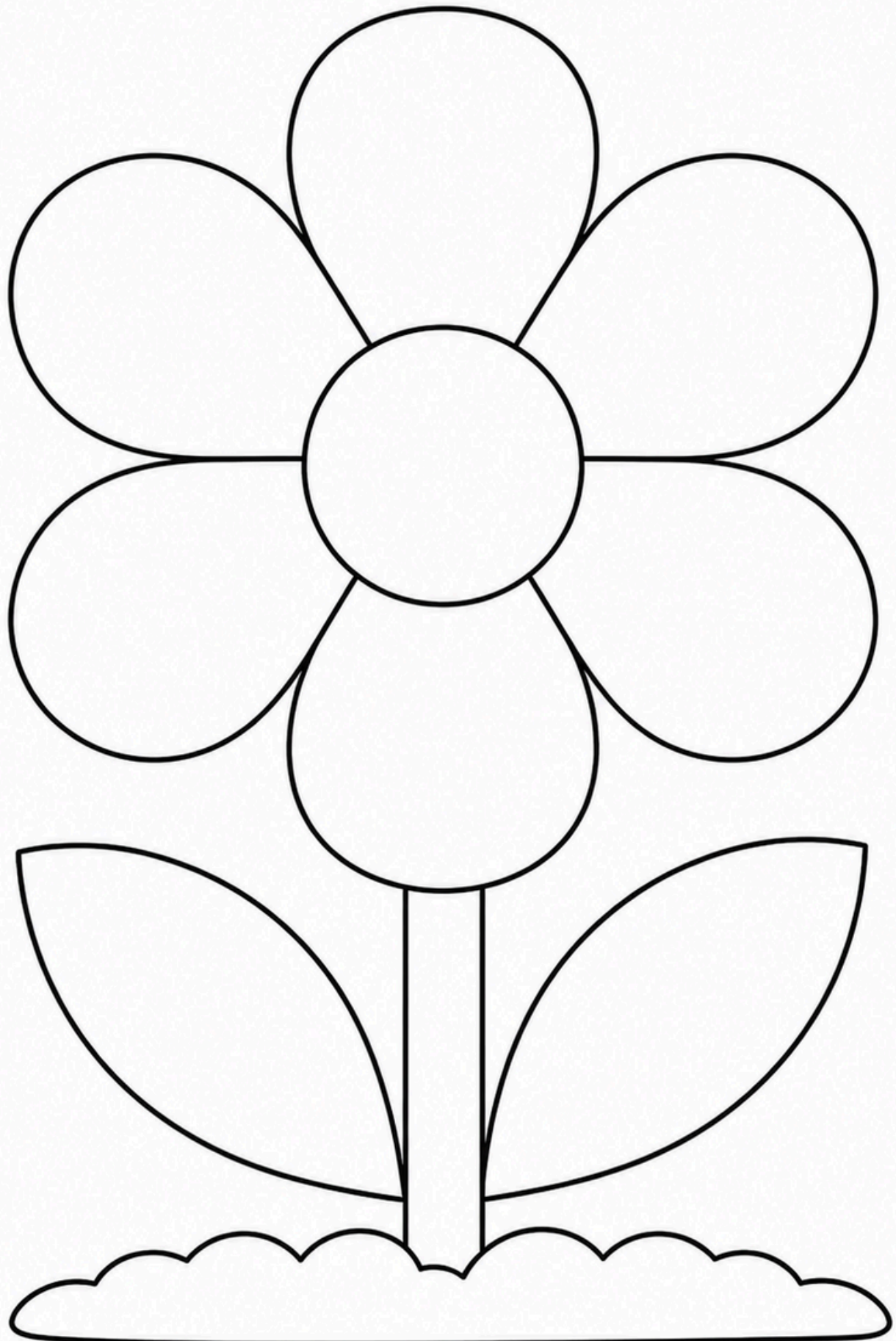


As you feel the different textures, remember that God didn't just make one generic type of seed. He designed thousands of unique shapes, colours and sizes to fill the earth with beauty.



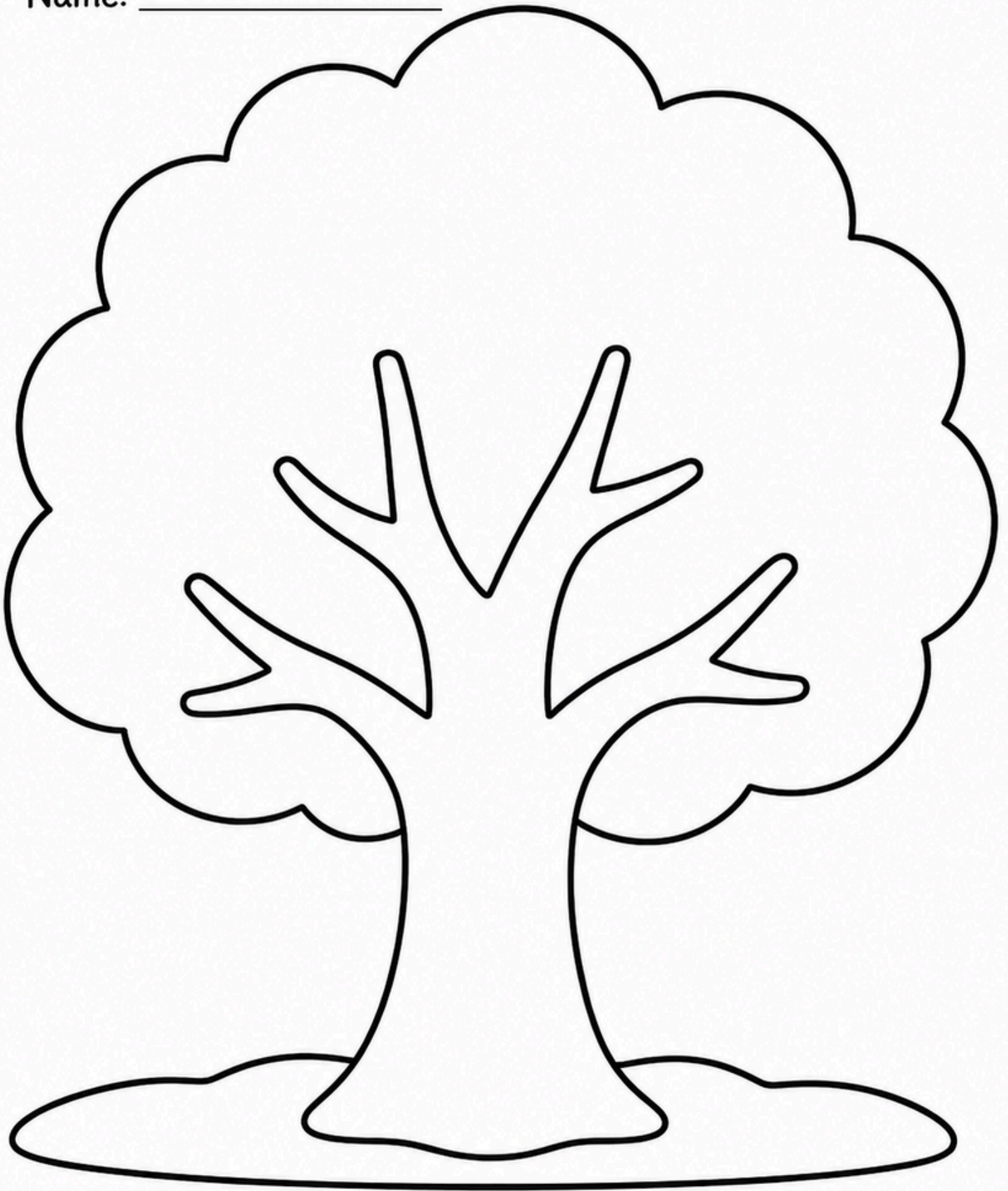
Mosaic Garden Flower

Name: _____



Mosaic Garden Tree

Name: _____



Activity Ideas

Seed Detective Station

Provide a collection of native seeds, pods and fruits.



Sort them by:



size



colour



texture



shape



dispersal method



whether they come from a tree, shrub, grass or flowering plant

size	colour	texture
shape	dispersal method	tree, shrub, grass or flowering plant

Draw the seed groups in a nature journal.



Seed Detective Worksheet

Sort your seeds into groups and draw what you find.

Name _____

Date _____

1. Size

Draw the big and small seeds you found.

2. Colour

Draw seeds by colour.

3. Texture

Draw smooth, rough or bumpy seeds.

4. Shape

Draw round, long, flat or curved seeds.

Activity Ideas

Seed Dispersal Nature Walk

Search for:

- ☐ fluffy seeds
- ☐ winged seeds
- ☐ spiky seeds
- ☐ fleshy fruits
- ☐ pods
- ☐ woody capsules



Photograph or sketch specimens

Seed Distribution Worksheet

Collect native seeds with different distribution methods and draw one in each box.

Name _____

Date _____

1. Wind

Draw a seed carried by the wind.

2. Animals

Draw a seed spread by animals.

3. Water

Draw a seed that floats on water.

4. Explosion

Draw a seed released when a pod bursts open.

5. Fire

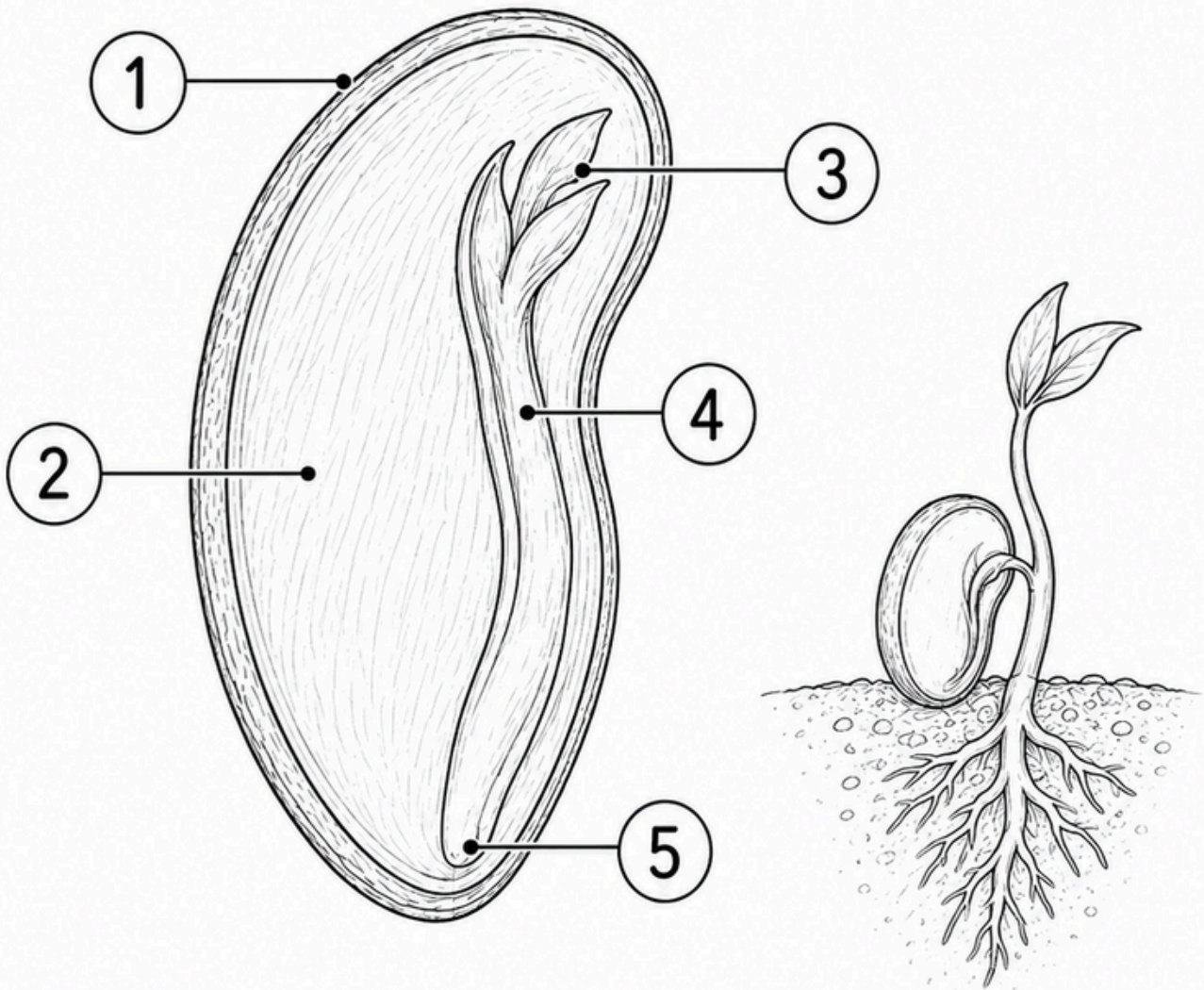
Draw a seed released after fire or heat opens the fruit.

Name:

Date:

Seed Anatomy

Cut out the words and match them to the numbers.



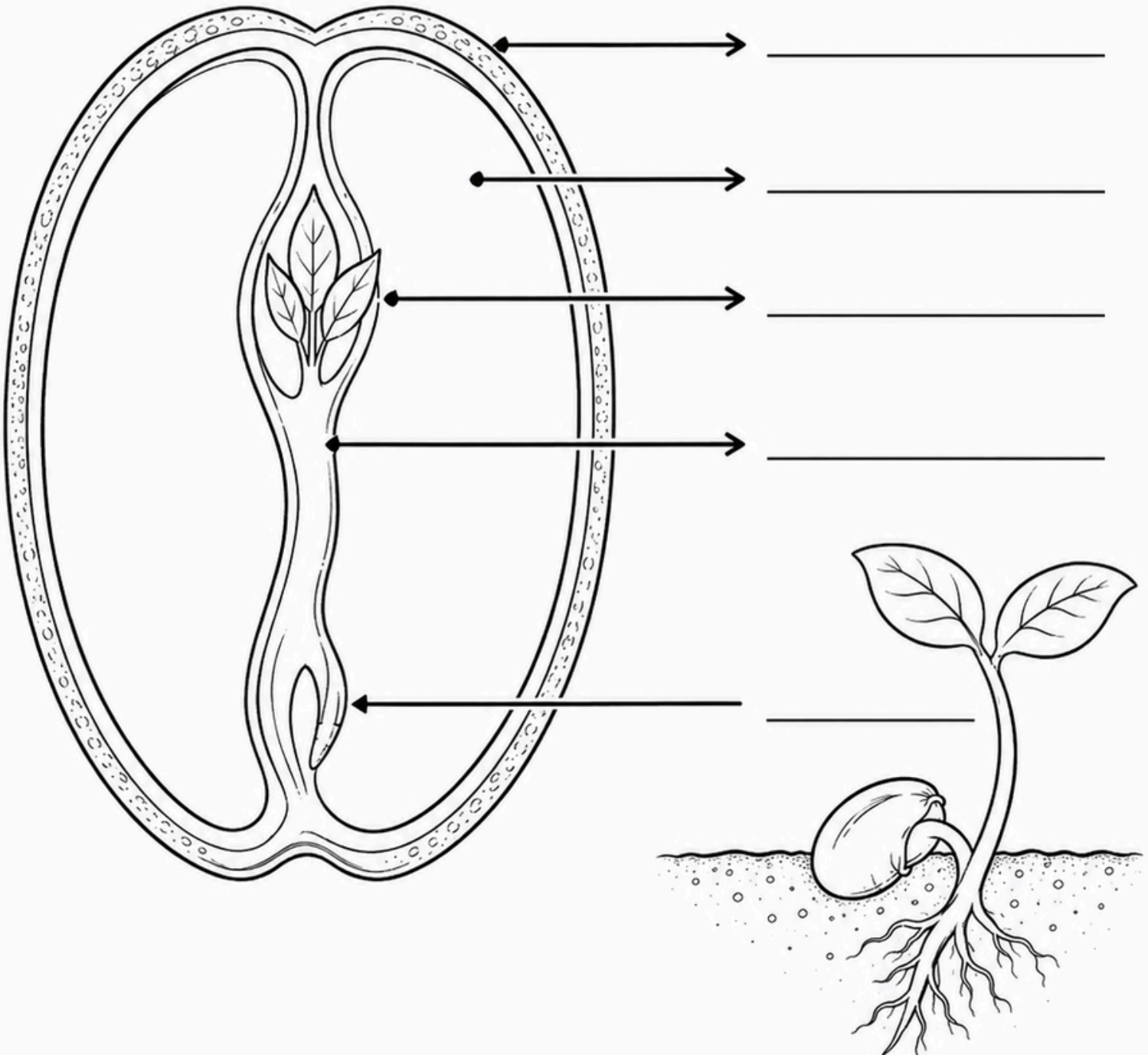
①	②	③	④	⑤
Seed coat	Cotyledon	Plumule	Embryo	Radicle

Name: _____

Date: _____

Seed Anatomy

Write each key word in the correct place on the diagram.



WORD BANK

Seed coat

Cotyledon

Plumule

Embryo

Radicle

Picture Study

Vincent van Gogh's
The Sower (June 1888).
Created in Arles, France.
Oil on Canvas.



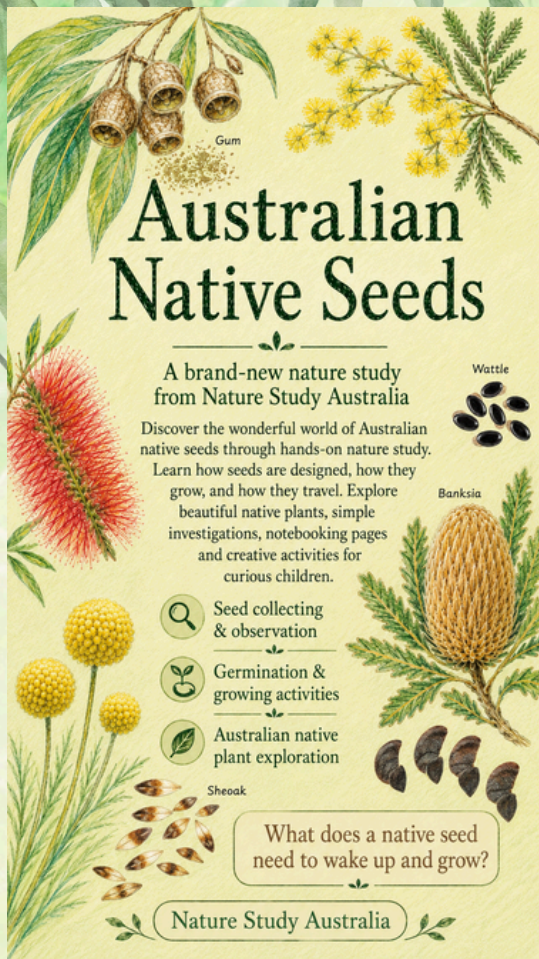
Begin with looking and narration: Give the child 3–5 quiet minutes to study the painting. Ask them to notice as much as they can. Then hide the picture and say, *“Tell me everything you remember about the painting.”* Let them describe it in their own words before offering information or asking detailed questions.

Then choose a handful of questions from this list rather than asking them all:

- What did you notice first?
- Where is the sower standing? What is he doing?
- Can you describe the sower from memory—his clothes, position and movement?
- What else can you remember in the landscape?
- Where is the sun? How does it affect the picture?
- What colours did Van Gogh use for the sky? The field? The figure?
- Which colours seem especially strong or unusual?
- Where do you see light and where do you see shadow?
- Look at the ground. How has Van Gogh made the soil look textured?
- Can you find lines that seem to lead your eye through the painting?
- Does the field seem still, or does it seem to move? What makes you think that?
- Which part of the painting takes up the most space?
- Is the sower painted with lots of tiny details, or has Van Gogh concentrated more on colour and shape?
- What do you imagine the sower might hear as he walks through the field?
- What might the soil feel like beneath his feet?
- What time of day do you think it might be? What clues can you find?
- What sort of mood does the painting give you—peaceful, energetic, hopeful, lonely, warm, mysterious?
- If you could step into this painting, where would you stand?



What's Next?



Introducing the Australian Native Seed Nature Study — a hands-on adventure into the tiny, fascinating world of native seeds!

We'll be collecting, sorting, planting, experimenting and watching seeds come to life as we explore germination, seed anatomy, dispersal, dormancy, fire, native wildlife connections and so much more.

There are activities for preschool through to older students, making it easy for the whole family to learn together. Think seed detectives, nature walks, wattle experiments, pollinator patches, seed art, observation journals and plenty of muddy fingers along the way!

And of course, we'll stop to wonder at the incredible design God has placed inside something so small. 🌱

This study is all about helping children look closely, ask questions, investigate, create and connect with the Australian environment around them.

