



## DIY ACTIVITY

# GROW YOUR OWN AVOCADO TREE

## GRADES 3-5

### OBJECTIVES

- Observe part of the avocado plant's life cycle.
- See how a plant needs only sunlight and water to grow.

### PROCEDURE

1. Ask an adult to cut open the avocado and remove the seed.
2. Wash the seed in the bowl of water.
3. Peel away and discard the thin brown skin around the seed.
4. Hold the seed so that the pointier end is up.
5. Carefully push three evenly spaced toothpicks into the seed, taking care not to push them into the fault lines.
6. Carefully place the seed into the cup by resting the three toothpicks on the lip.
7. Pour water into the cup until the suspended seed is at least halfway covered.
8. Place the cup with the seed in direct sunlight.
9. Wait for the avocado seed to sprout, which will take 4-8 weeks. Change the water once per week.
10. When your avocado plant reaches 6 inches in height, transfer it into a pot with soil.
11. It will take 4-5 years of growing before your avocado seed produces another avocado so don't wait for it. :)

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- A ripe avocado
- Cutting board
- Knife + Help from an adult
- Bowl of water
- Clear plastic cup of water
- Toothpicks
- Flower Pot
- Soil

### WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

An avocado starts its life cycle as a seed. When planted, the seed germinates (starts to grow) in about 4-8 weeks. The seed splits along the fault line allowing a root to grow down and a sprout to grow up. As the sprout grows leaves, it becomes a seedling, and continues to grow into an avocado plant. Eventually the avocado plant produces flowers, and finally fruit after 4-5 years. Inside each avocado fruit is another seed—ready to start its life cycle.

### FURTHER EXPLORATION

Try planting other seeds that come out of the fruit you eat. Apples, pears, oranges, strawberries—fruits (and vegetables)

**⚠️ Ask an adult to help cut the avocado with a knife. Be careful when poking toothpicks into the seed.**