



# Animal & Plant Life Cycles Activity for Kids



## Grow an Avocado Plant DIY

 Duration: **15–30 min**

 Difficulty: **Medium**

 Cost: **\$0 to \$5**

Observe part of the avocado plant's life cycle!

### Material List

- 1** Ripe avocado
- 1** Cutting board
- 1** Knife adult use only!
- 1** Bowl of water
- 1** Clear plastic cup of water
- 3** Toothpicks

### Instructions

- 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** Push 3 evenly spaced toothpicks into the seed (not on the fault lines).
- 6** Carefully place the seed into the cup by resting the toothpicks on the lip.
- 7** Pour water into the cup until the seed is halfway covered.
- 8** Place the cup with the seed in a warm place in direct sunlight.
- 9** Wait for the avocado seed to sprout, which will take 4–8 weeks.
- 9** Change the water once per week.

### How It Works

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 then 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 own life cycle.