



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.
- 10 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.