



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 out of 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.