Cause and Effect

Grade 2 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the best answer.

READ THIS FIRST

How a Seed Sprouts

A seed may look dry and lifeless, but a tiny baby plant is inside. The seed also holds stored food to help the plant start growing. A hard coat protects the seed until the time is right.

A seed needs water to sprout. When a seed is planted in damp soil, it soaks up water and swells. The seed gets so big that its coat splits open.

Warmth matters too. Many seeds will not sprout until the soil is warm enough. That is why gardeners often plant seeds in spring, after the cold weather ends.

First, a tiny root pushes out of the seed. It grows down into the soil, because roots grow toward the pull of the earth. The root takes in water so the plant can keep growing.

Next, a small shoot grows up toward the light. When the shoot pokes out of the soil, its first leaves open. Now the leaves can use sunlight to make food. The little plant no longer needs the food stored in the seed.

If a seed stays dry, it will not sprout.

1. Why does a seed's coat split open?
   - The seed soaks up water and swells.
   - A tiny root pushes it open from inside.
   - The new leaves pull it apart from outside.

2. What happens when the shoot pokes out of the soil?
   - Its coat splits open again.
   - Its first leaves open.
   - A root grows down into the soil.

3. Which sentence uses because the right way?
   - Because the soil is cold, the seed sprouts.
   - Because the seed soaks up water, it swells.
   - Because the seed swells, it soaks up water.

4. What happens right after the seed's coat splits open?
   The seed soaks up water. The first leaves open. A tiny root pushes out.

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Answer Key - Grade 2 Reading Worksheet

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