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

2. Why do gardeners often plant seeds in spring?
   Seeds need lots of spring rain to grow tall.
   The days are shorter in the spring than in winter.
   The soil is warm enough after the cold ends.

3. Why does the root grow down into the soil?
   Roots grow toward the light above.
   Roots grow toward the pull of the earth.
   The shoot pushes the root down into the soil.

4. Why does the little plant stop needing the food stored in the seed?
   Its leaves can use sunlight to make food.
   Its root has grown too long for the pot.
   A gardener gives it plant food every day.

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Answer Key - Grade 2 Reading Worksheet

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