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

2. What would happen if a seed stayed dry?
   It would sprout faster. It would not sprout. Its coat would split open.

3. What must happen before the first leaves can open?
   The soil must turn cold.
   The shoot must poke out of the soil.
   The leaves must make food from sunlight.

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

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Answer Key - Grade 2 Reading Worksheet

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