


Connection to the Museum: Our Smithsonian Habitat exhibit explores the plants and wildlife that make the Texas Panhandle a unique ecosystem

Grade Level Targeted: PK/Kindergarten

Connected learning targets:
Science: Observe and identify the basic needs of plants.
ELAR: Ask questions and describe observations.
Fine Arts: Create artwork inspired by nature.

Objective of lesson:
Students will identify the basic parts of a plant and explain what plants need to grow.

Summary of lesson:
Read a picture book such as *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert or *From Seed to Plant* by Gail Gibbons.

Students observe real plants or pictures and identify:
Roots, stems, leaves, flowers

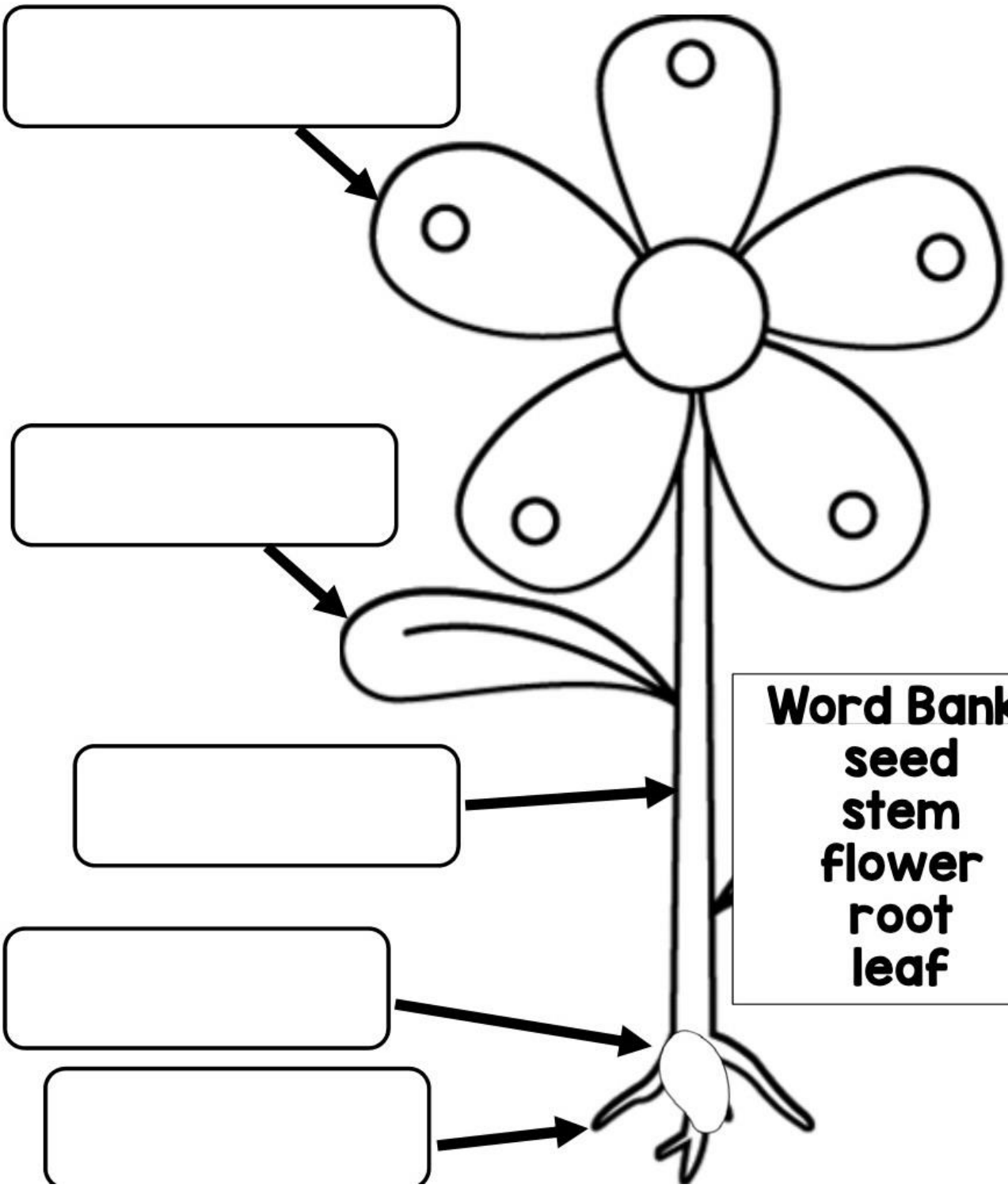
Discussion Questions:
What do plants need to grow?
Why are plants important?
Where do you see plants around you?

Student Activity:
Plant a seed in a small cup then Color and label the parts of a plant.

Assessment:
Students name one thing plants need to survive.

Name: _____ Pk/k

Parts of a Plant



Word Bank:
seed
stem
flower
root
leaf

What does a plant need to survive?


Connection to the Museum: Our Smithsonian Habitat exhibit highlights the connection between native plants, wildlife, and healthy habitats.

Grade Level Targeted: 1st – 2nd

Connected learning targets:
Science: Investigate plant life cycles and environments.
ELAR: Make observations and communicate ideas.
Math: Observe patterns in nature.

Objective of lesson:
Students will explain how plants grow and why they are important to animals and people.

Summary of lesson:
Students explore native Texas plants through photographs or museum displays.

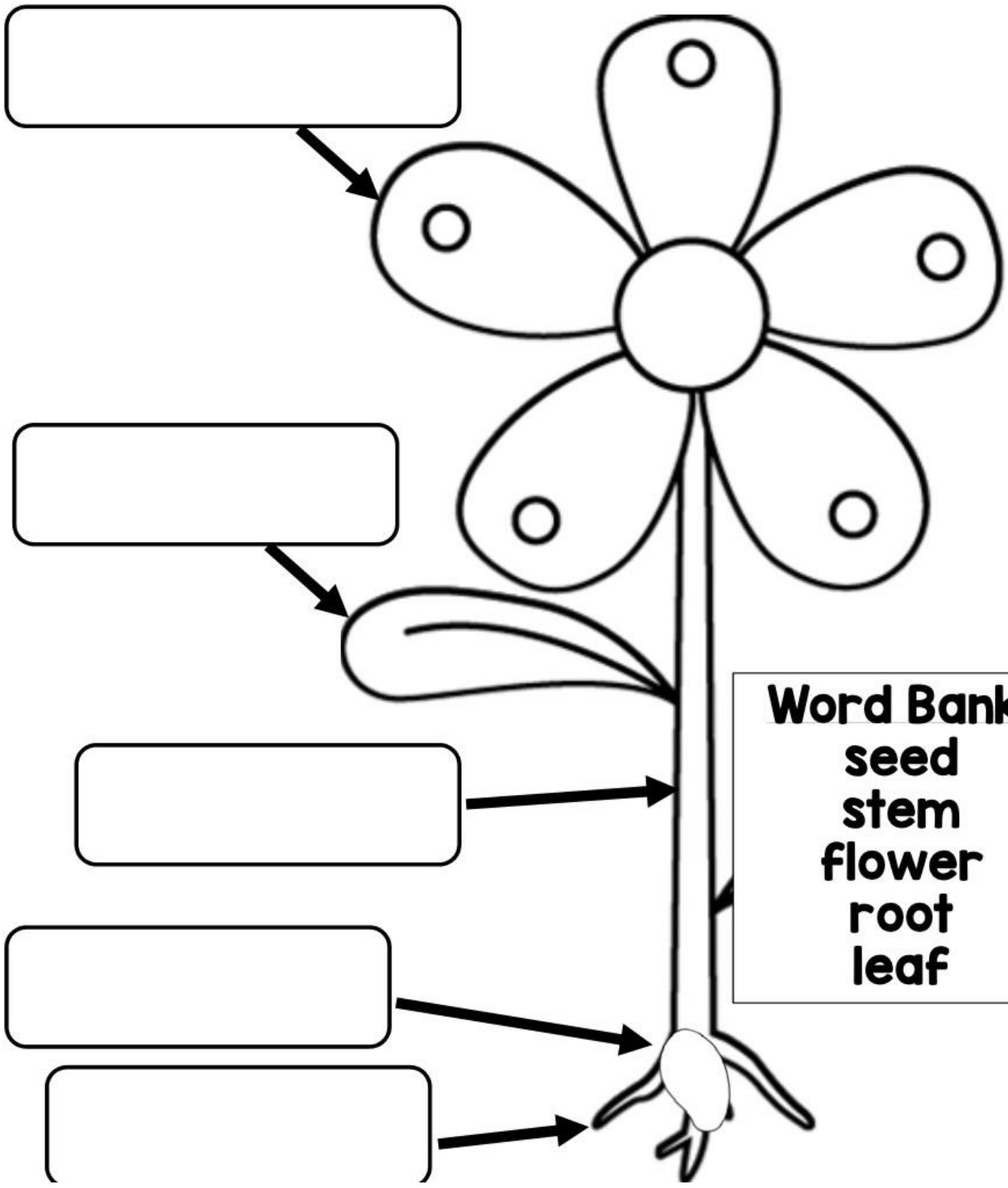
Discussion:
How do seeds become plants?
What animals depend on plants?
Why should we protect plants?
Students compare wildflowers, grasses, and trees found in the Texas Panhandle.

Student Activity:
Plant a seed in a small cup then Color and label the parts of a plant.

Assessment:
Complete the sentence:
"Plants are important because _____."

Name: _____ 1st/2nd

Parts of a Plant



Word Bank:
seed
stem
flower
root
leaf

Plants are important because _____.


Connection to the Museum: Our Smithsonian Habitat exhibit demonstrates how plants provide food, shelter, and protection for wildlife throughout the Texas Panhandle.

Grade Level Targeted: 3rd – 5th

Connected learning targets:
Science: Investigate plant structures and life cycles.
Social Studies: Understand how natural resources support communities.
ELAR: Draw conclusions using evidence.

Objective of lesson:
Students will investigate how native plants support wildlife and contribute to healthy ecosystems.

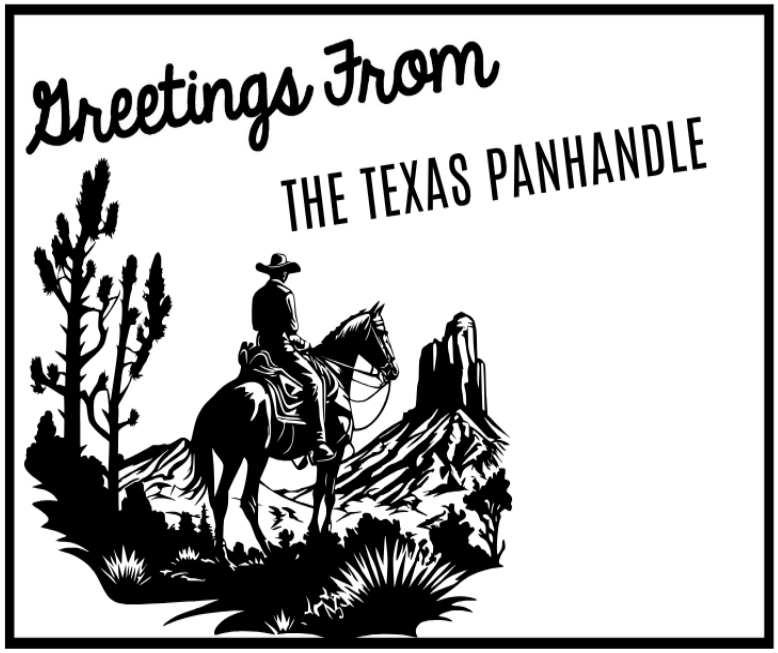
Essential Question:
Why are native plants important to the Texas Panhandle?

Summary of lesson:
Plant Investigation
Students examine examples or photographs of native plants.
Students observe: Leaves, flowers, seeds, and growth patterns

Discussion Questions:
How do plants help animals?
Why do some plants grow better in Texas than others?
How do people use plants?

Student Activity:
Plant a seed in a small cup then choose a native Texas plant and create an informational post card describing: Appearance, habitat, animals it supports, and an interesting fact

Assessment:
Students write a paragraph explaining why protecting native plants is important.


Greetings From
THE TEXAS PANHANDLE


Greetings From
THE TEXAS PANHANDLE


Greetings From
THE TEXAS PANHANDLE


Greetings From
THE TEXAS PANHANDLE

3rd/5th

POSTCARD

POSTCARD

POSTCARD

POSTCARD

3rd/5th


Connection to the Museum: Our Smithsonian Habitat exhibit illustrates how native plants are the foundation of healthy ecosystems.

Grade Level Targeted: 6th – 8th

Connected learning targets:
Science: Analyze ecosystems and interactions among organisms.
Environmental Science: Investigate biodiversity.
ELAR: Support claims using evidence.

Objective of lesson:
Students will evaluate the role of native plants in maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting biodiversity.

Essential Question:
How do native plants influence the health of an ecosystem?

Summary of lesson:
Habitat Investigation
Students examine native plant species and discuss: Adaptations, water conservation, pollination, and food webs

Questions:
Why are native plants better adapted to the Texas Panhandle?
How do invasive plants affect ecosystems?
How do plants support wildlife?

Student Activity:
Plant a seed in a small cup. Then create a habitat diagram showing how plants interact with animals, insects, soil, and water.

Assessment:
Create a claim with evidence.
Claim: Native plants are important because _____.
Evidence: _____.

Name:_____

Create a habitat diagram showing how plants interact with animals, insects, soil, and water.

Create a claim with evidence.

Claim: Native plants are important because _____.

Evidence: _____.


Connection to the Museum: Our Smithsonian Habitat exhibit encourages visitors to understand how conserving native plants helps protect the wildlife and natural heritage of the Texas Panhandle.

Grade Level Targeted: High School (9th – 12th)

Connected learning targets:
Biology
Environmental Science
Agriculture
English Language Arts

Objective of lesson:
Students will evaluate the ecological and economic importance of native plants in the Texas Panhandle.

Essential Question:
Why should communities protect native plant ecosystems?

Summary of lesson:
Students investigate: Native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and prairie ecosystems

Students analyze: Plant adaptations, biodiversity, conservation, and human impact

Discussion:
How has agriculture changed native plant communities?
What are the benefits of restoring native habitats?
How do plants influence soil, water, and wildlife?

Student Activity:
Plant a seed in a small cup. Then students design a native plant garden for the museum or their school using species that benefit local wildlife.

Assessment:
Write a short paragraph describing the importance of one native Texas plant and its role in the ecosystem.

Name:_____

Design a native plant garden for the museum or school using species that benefit local wildlife.

Write a short paragraph describing the importance of one native Texas plant and its role in the ecosystem.

_____

_____

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