

## Leaves

The leaves turn sunlight into food. That process is known as **photosynthesis**.

## Stem

The stem supports the flower and leaves, and transports water and nutrients from the roots.

## Ray florets

These are the flower's large, colorful petals.

## Disk florets

These are the little flowers in the center of the sunflower.

## Roots

The sunflower takes in water and **nutrients** through its roots.

## A Sunny Flower

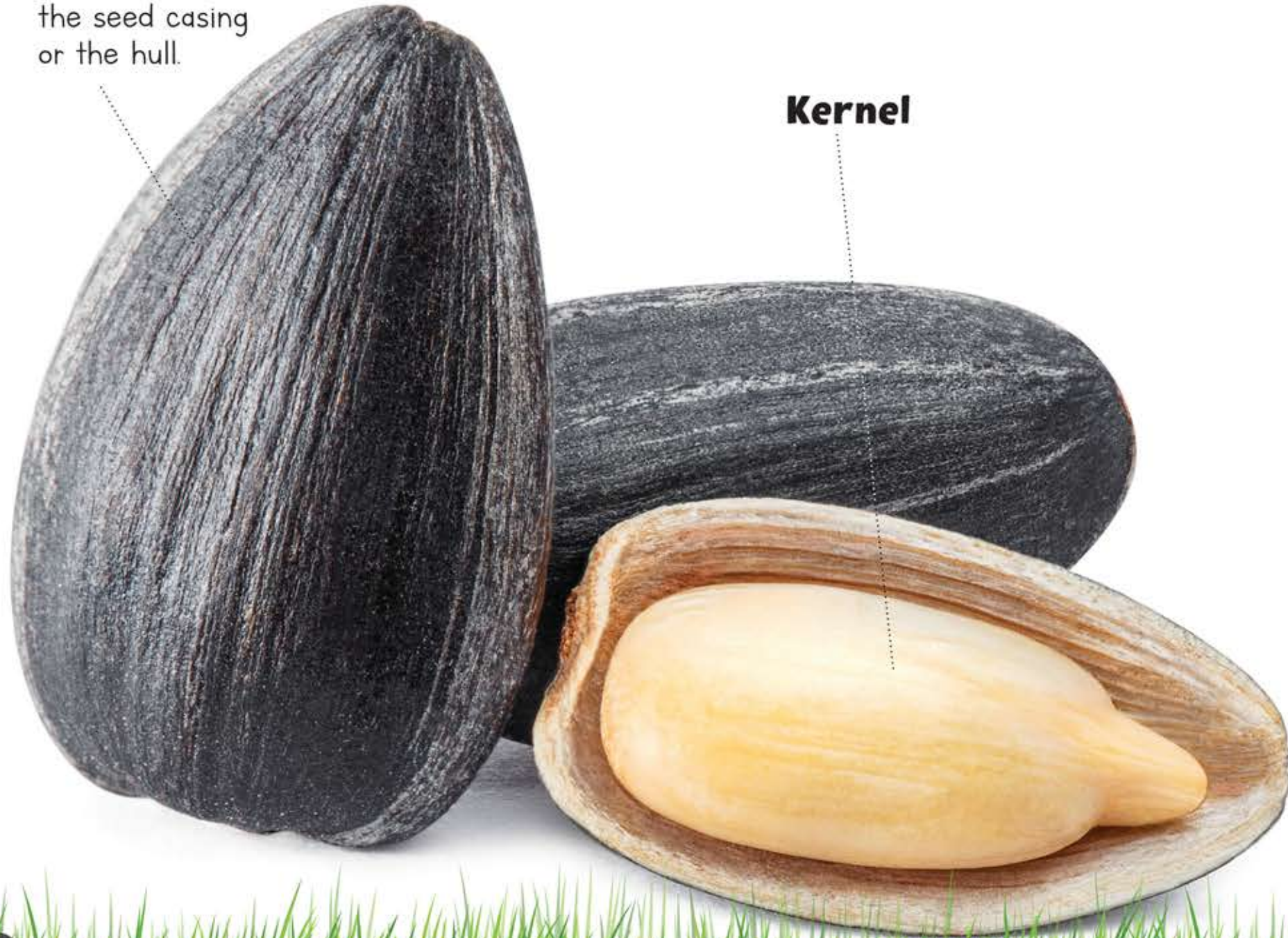
A sunflower is a flowering plant. Like all flowering plants, a sunflower has a stem, a flower, leaves, and roots. The flower is brown in the center and usually has yellow **petals**. It looks like a small sun! Each part of this beautiful plant has an important job.



## Hull

The outside of the seed is called the seed casing or the hull.

## Kernel



## It Starts with a Seed

There are about 70 kinds of sunflowers. They may be tall or short. But every sunflower's life starts the same way—with a seed. A hard case covers the outside of the seed. Inside is the **kernel**. That's the part that will develop into a new plant.

Some sunflowers grow to be more than 10 feet tall. That's higher than a basketball hoop!





## Growing Up from Seed to Sunflower

It takes three to four months for a seed to grow into a beautiful sunflower.

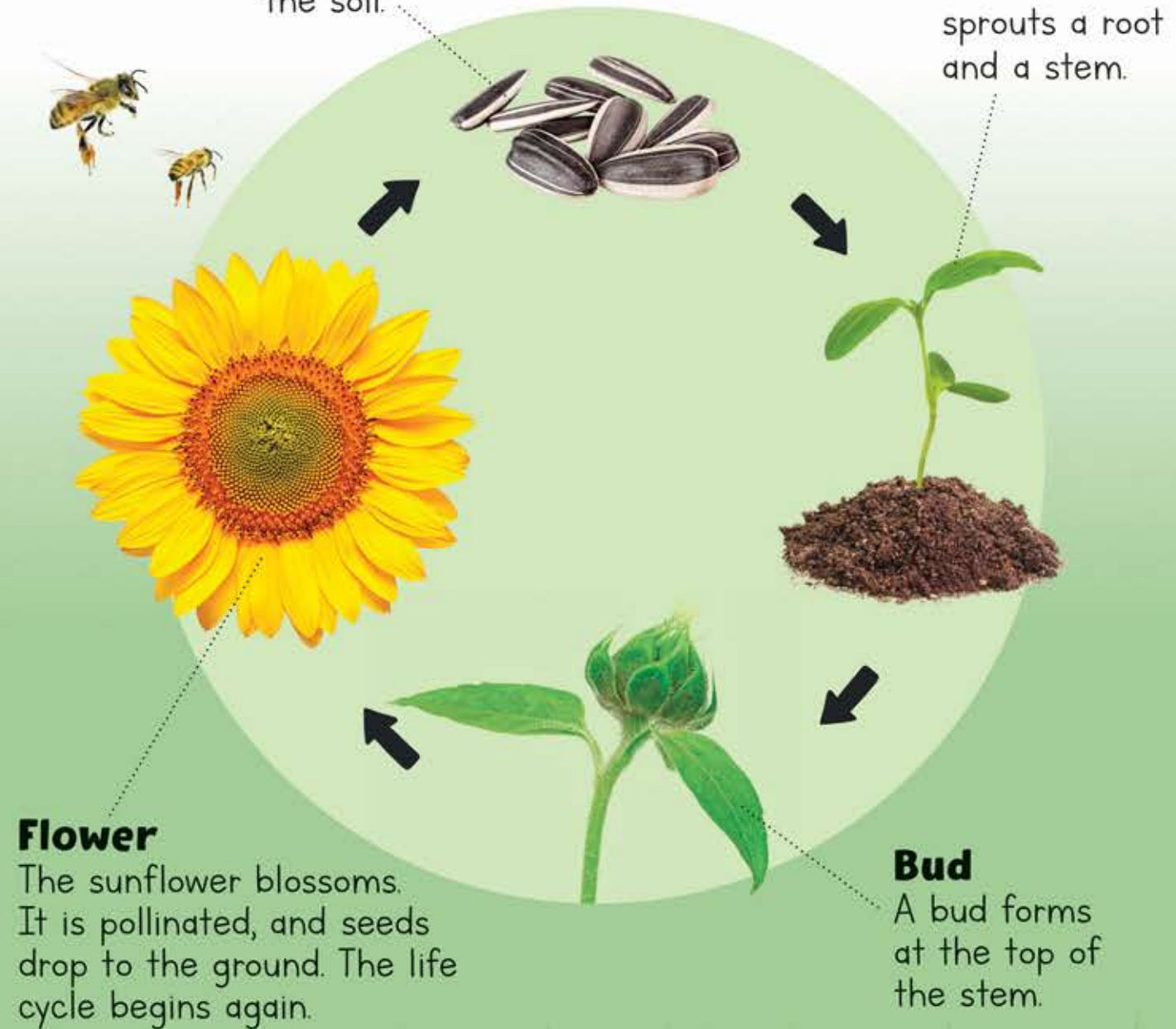


### Seed

A tiny seed is planted in the soil.

### Seedling

The seed sprouts a root and a stem.



### Flower

The sunflower blossoms. It is pollinated, and seeds drop to the ground. The life cycle begins again.

### Bud

A bud forms at the top of the stem.