

## PLANT REPRODUCTION

There are MANY plants in the world. Some are plants that you know of and many you have never heard of before!

### Simple Plants

Have you ever heard of a liverwort plant? Sounds like a plant that would be found in an enchanted forest. **Liverworts** are small plants that can be found in shady, moist areas. They are truly a very simple plant. They are not vascular and do not have true roots like most plants do; instead, they have **rhizoids** that anchor them to the ground.

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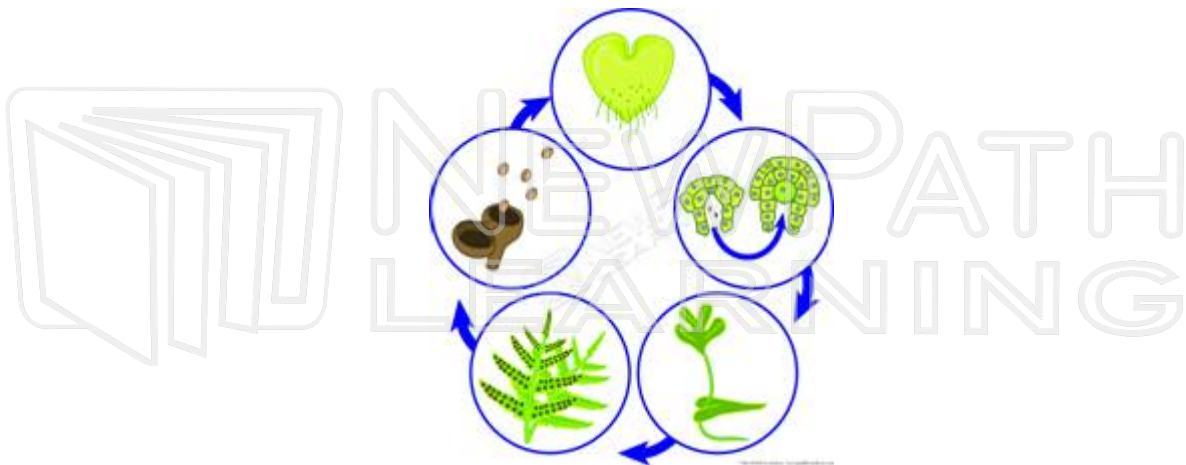
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plant? If you said C – you are correct!! Those spores spread out to other areas, land in the soil, and develop into NEW fern plants.



## The Life Cycle of Moss

First moss produces egg and sperm cells, then fertilization occurs, then a spore stalk is developed. The spore stalk grows from the parent plant; spores are inside of the stalk all closed up in a spore case for safe keeping. Spores are finally released into the air around the parent plant and a new moss plant grows from the released spores.

### Spores vs. Seeds

	SEEDS	SPORES
produced by flowering plant?	yes	no
multi-cellular embryo?	yes	no
store food?	yes	yes

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grows as its own plant. Runners are new plants that form on the end of a parent plant's long stem or leaf...notice the picture of the spider plant below:



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### Lesson Checkpoint:

**What is the difference between sexual and asexual reproduction?**

There are also plants that do not flower BUT still produce seeds....(ahhh, so many kinds of plants – isn't it fascinating!)

**Gymnosperms** are vascular plants that produce seeds, but do not produce flowers. Coniferous trees, such as pine trees, are examples of gymnosperms.

Look at the seed of a pine tree below:




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larger cones on a coniferous tree are the female cones, their job is to produce eggs. The wind carries pollen from the male cones to the female cones. The female cones are also known as seed cones, because that's where the seeds are kept.

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*Lesson Checkpoint: What are gymnosperms?*

**Flowers from Seeds**

Now, as you most likely know, MANY plants produce flowers and develop fruit around their seeds....these plants are known as **angiosperms**.

## Monocots vs. Dicots....what are these?

**Monocots** are plants that only have one cotyledon in its seed. What's a cotyledon, you ask? Let's refresh your memory...a **cotyledon** is a leaf of the embryo of a seed plant. Like a corn plant.

Monocots have two distinct characteristics:

1. **Monocot leaves have parallel veins**
2. **Monocots usually have a fibrous root system.**



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So monocots and dicots are different in their types of roots and types of leaves.

### *Lesson Checkpoint:*

*What are two differences between a monocot and a dicot?*