

Growing Seeds Indoors: What Is the Difference?

If you have done the "Growing sees Indoors Project," you have probably noticed that the sunflower and the corn seedlings grew in different ways. This is because they come from two different groups of plants.

A sunflower is a Dicotyledon (di = two; cotyledons = seed leaves; which makes two seed leaves).

When a sunflower seedling first starts to grow, you can see it push up two seed leaves before it grows its true leaves. Beans, peas, pumpkins, roses, oak trees, maple trees, and many other plants are dicots (short for dicotyledon).



Corn is a Monocotyledon (mono = one; cotyledons = seed leaves; which makes one seed leaf)

When a corn seedling first starts growing, you can see it push up one slender, grasslike leaf before it grows its true leaves. Grasses and palm trees are examples of monocots (short for monocotyledon).



1. Draw a picture of your corn and sunflower seedlings with their seed leaves and then with their true leaves. Label the leaves on your drawing.
2. Make a poster showing the parts of dicot and monocot seedlings. How are they different? How are they the same? Display your poster at a Science exhibit or 4-H presentation.
3. Go to the library or use the Internet to find out more about monocots and dicots. Make a list of monocot plants and dicot plants that you grow in your garden or are found around your home. Which kind of plant is the most common? _____