

Keep this sheet.  
Collect them all!



## Explore your world with this Science-to-Go backpack



### Books in this backpack

- **The Bizarre Life Cycle of an Octopus**  
by Therese Shea
- **Explore Life Cycles: 25 Great Projects**  
by Kathleen M. Reilly
- **Frogs**  
by Seymour Simon
- **Life Cycles: River**  
by Sean Callery
- **Rotten Pumpkin: A Rotten Tale in 15 Voices**  
by David M. Schwartz

### Idea!

Before you read "Frogs," take a look at the glossary to find definitions of any words you don't know.

More books  
at your  
library

Desert: Life Cycles. Sean Callery. J591.754  
Egg: Nature's Perfect Package. Robin Page and Steve Jenkins. E591.468  
Looking at Life Cycles: How Do Plants and Animals Change?  
Angela Royston. E571.8  
Plant Secrets. Emily Goodman. E580  
This Is Your Life Cycle. Heather Miller. E595.7

### Local Connection

Visit the **Ballard Locks Fish Ladder** in Seattle to see salmon complete their life cycle by returning from the ocean to the streams where they were born. Find more information at [myballard.com/ballard-locks-seattle](http://myballard.com/ballard-locks-seattle).



Everything alive has a life cycle, including plants. The biggest tree on your block began its life as a small seed, and will eventually fall down and decompose, completing its life cycle. Although it takes a long time for a tree to grow to maturity, you can explore the beginning of a plant life cycle by sprouting an avocado pit in your kitchen.

## What you need:

- Avocado
- Toothpicks
- Small jar or clear glass
- Sunny window

## Try this:

1. Eat the avocado (it's delicious with chips). Save the avocado pit—it's actually a seed.
2. Clean off the pit. Locate the slightly pointy end of the pit. This is the top of the seed, where the new plant will sprout. The flat bottom end is where the roots will form.
3. Take three or four toothpicks and stick them into the sides of the pit at a slightly downward angle.
4. Fill the jar almost to the top with water.
5. Place your avocado pit on the jar so the bottom of the pit is in the water, and the top is dry. The toothpicks should support the pit. If not, find a smaller jar.
6. Set the jar on a sunny windowsill.
7. Check on your pit every day, changing the water every three to five days.
8. In about a month you'll see changes to the pit—the outer seed skin will be shed, tap roots will be in the water and a little sprout will emerge on top!
9. How big will your tree grow? That depends on how happy it is in the environment you provide. Avocados like warm weather, so if you transfer your sprout to a pot so it can grow bigger, be sure not to leave it outside in the winter.

## Going Further

Create a record of your avocado pit's growth. You can use a calendar to take notes or draw pictures of the sprouting seed, or make a book with your observations. Remember to label and date all of your data, just like a scientist.