



Parts of a Plant →

Seeds



A close-up photograph of a hand planting small, light-colored seeds into dark, rich soil. The hand is positioned in the upper left, with fingers gently holding a seed just above a small hole in the ground. Several other seeds are visible, planted in a row further down the soil. The background is a soft-focus view of the soil surface.

Seeds

By *Gemma
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Words that appear like *this* can be found in the glossary on page 24.

What is a Plant?

A plant is a living thing.
Trees, shrubs, flowers and
weeds are all plants. People
and animals need plants to live.



Plant



Sunlight

Plants need water, sunlight and heat to live. They make their own food using energy from the Sun.

What Are Seeds?



All plants have different parts. Seeds are a part of the plant.
Not all plants make seeds.

Some seeds are large and easy to see and some seeds are very small. Some plants make more seeds than other plants.

Mustard seeds
are tiny

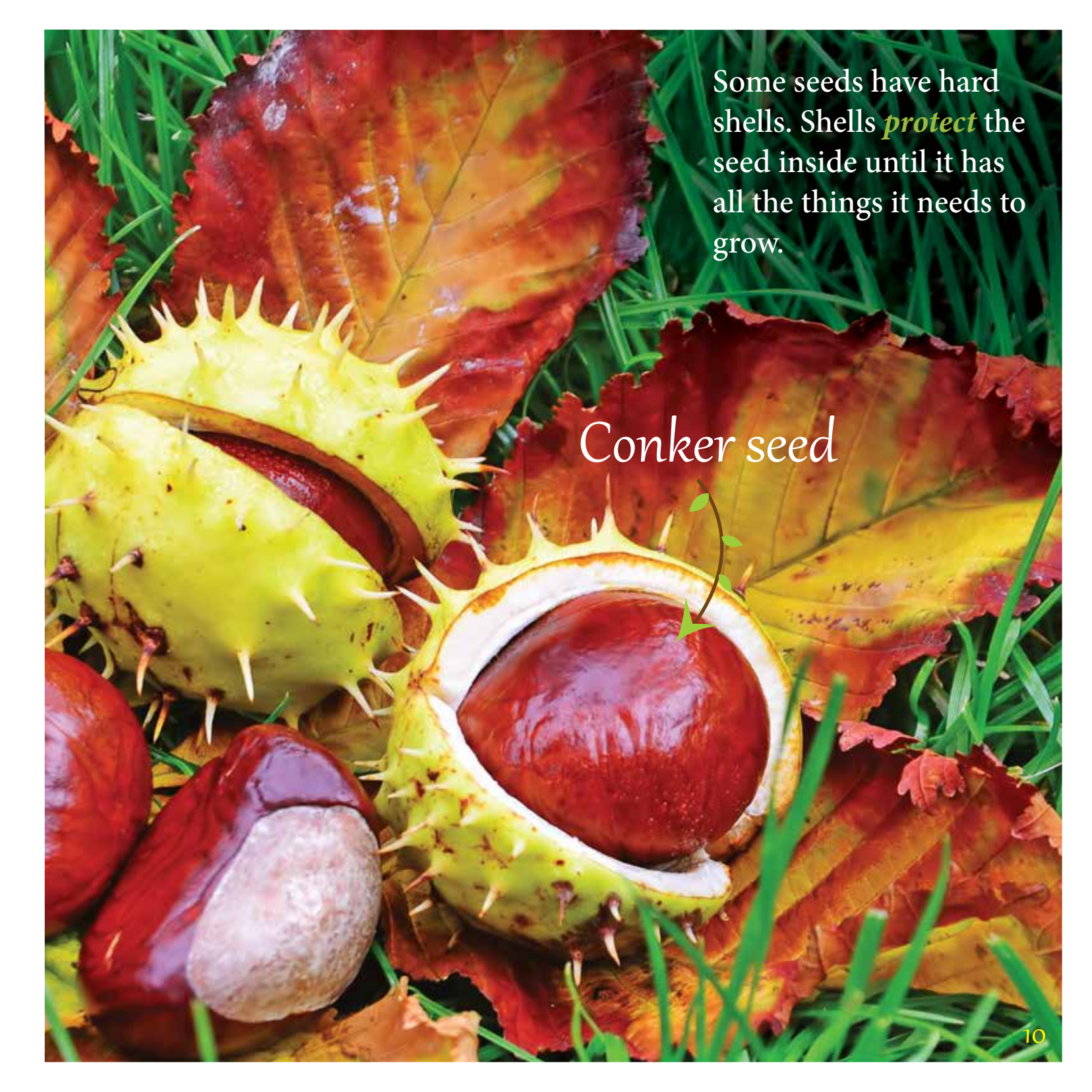
Lotus seed pods
hold lots of seeds

What Do Seeds Do?

Plants make seeds so that more plants can grow. Each seed can grow into a new plant.

Dandelion seed





Some seeds have hard shells. Shells *protect* the seed inside until it has all the things it needs to grow.

Conker seed

What Do Seeds Look Like?

Seeds often look very different from one another. There are lots of types of seed and they can come in many different shapes and sizes.

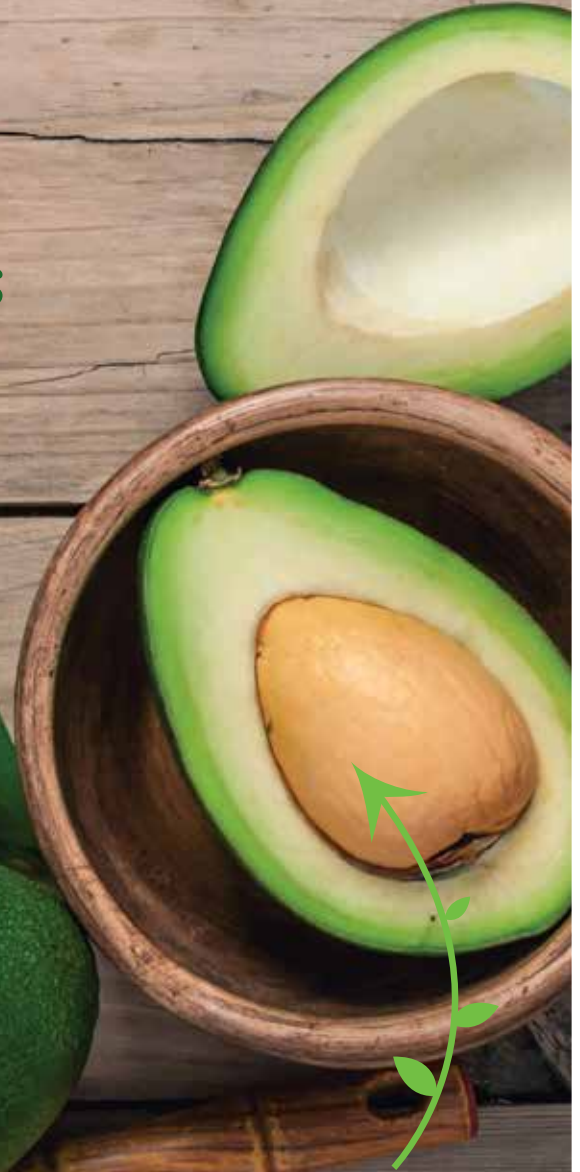




Poppy seeds are small and black in colour.

Poppy seeds

Avocado seeds are much larger. They are found inside the fruit.



Avocado seed

Fruity Seeds

Strawberry seeds are small and yellow. They are found on the outside of the fruit.

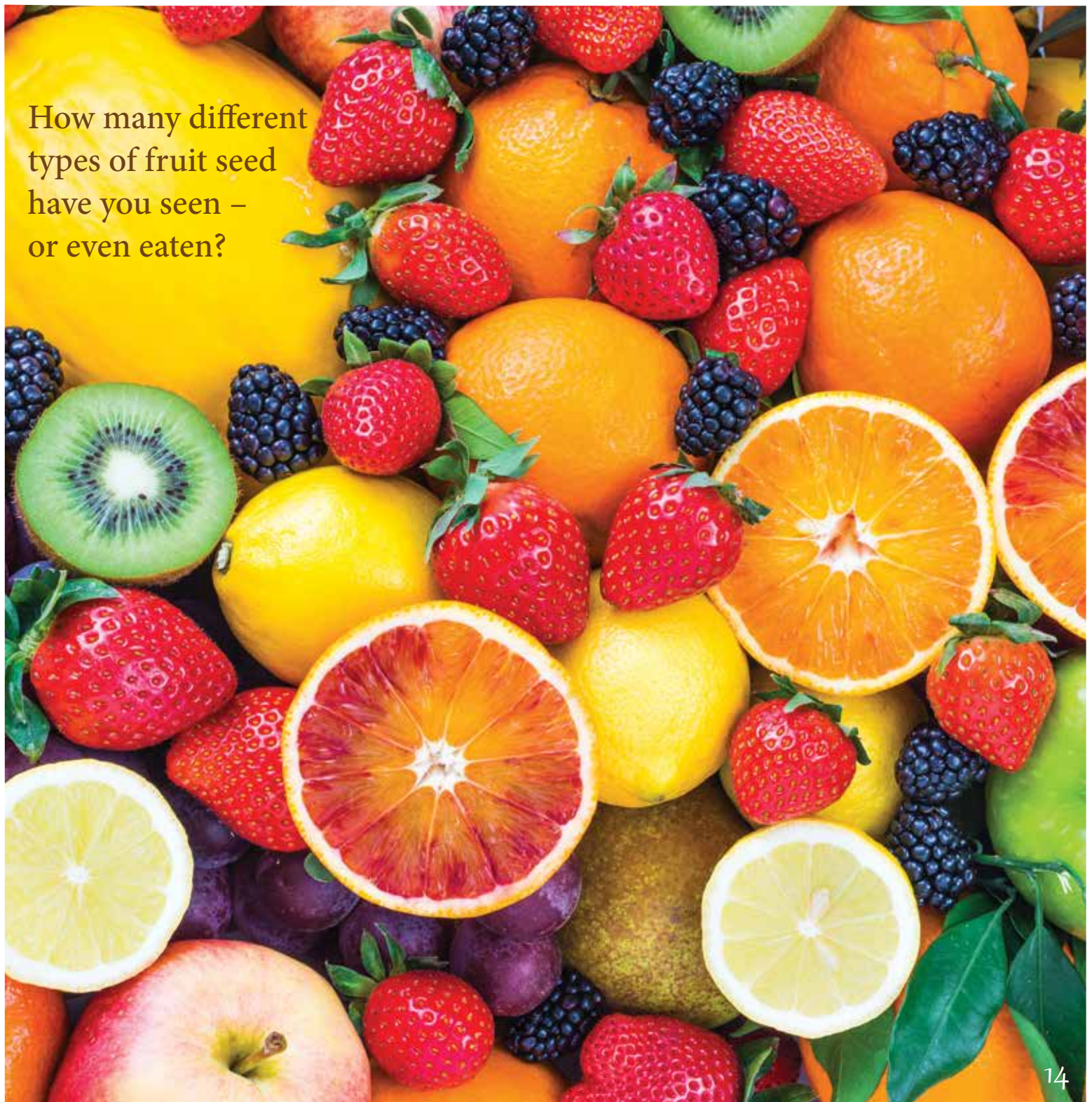
Strawberry
seeds



Apple
seeds

Apple seeds are found on the inside of the fruit. Apple seeds are brown.

How many different
types of fruit seed
have you seen –
or even eaten?



How Do People Use Seeds?

Some seeds are *edible*, meaning that they can be eaten. Beans are a type of seed that many people like to eat.

Baked
beans



Broad beans



Sunflower seeds have oil inside them that can be used for cooking.



Sunflower
seeds

Sesame seeds

Sesame seeds are often sprinkled on top of bread rolls.



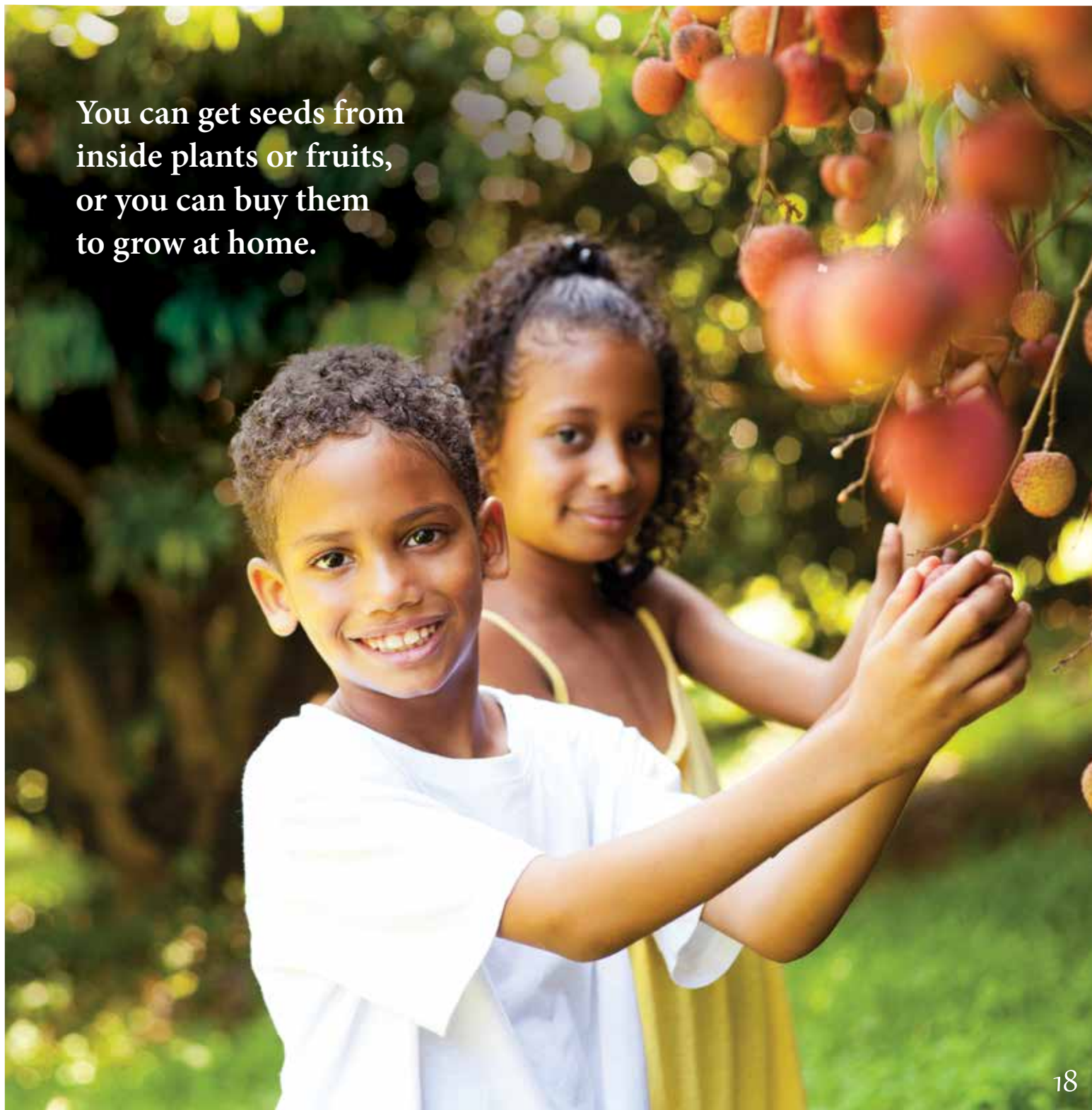
Other Uses for Seeds

Gardeners use seeds to grow new plants. Gardeners have to make sure that each type of seed has just the right things it needs to grow.



Planting
seeds

You can get seeds from
inside plants or fruits,
or you can buy them
to grow at home.



Clever Plants

Plants make lots of seeds so that there is a good chance that some will grow into new plants.



Sunflower heads are made up of lots of tiny flowers that all turn into seeds.

Seeds move away from their *parent plant* in different ways. Getting far away from their parent plant gives the seeds a better chance of *survival*.

A dandelion flower uses the wind to move its seeds.

A sycamore seed spins away from its parent plant like a helicopter.



Seeds on the Move

Fruits that have seeds inside of them often fall off their tree. Many are round in shape so that they can roll away from the parent plant.



Apples can roll
away with the
seeds inside.

Some seeds stick to passing animals and then fall off later in a new place.



A spiky
burdock seed

Seed Secrets

Coco-not!

Did you know
that a coconut is
actually a seed,
not a nut?



Pea Shooter

Pea pods split and fire their seeds out!

Poo Planting!

Some seeds are found inside fruits and berries. Birds and animals then eat the fruit and then poo out the seeds, which can still grow into new plants.



Glossary

edible can be eaten safely

parent plant the plant that a seed came from

protect keep safe from harm

survival to carry on living

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Parts of a Plant

Why do plants have leaves? Which part of a plant keeps it anchored into the ground? What do flowers do? Children will enjoy finding out the answers to these questions and many more in this informative and beautifully imagined series.

