

Sunflowers

By ReadWorks.org

1. A sunflower is a big, circular, yellow flower. Sunflowers need a lot of sun to grow. Sunflowers are actually made up of lots and lots of tiny flowers. The center part is made of one kind of flower, and the petals around it are another kind of flower.
2. We use sunflowers in different ways. One thing we do with them is look at them! Many people add them to gardens because they are so big, bright, and colorful. They can also be cut and brought inside. They will last a long time in a vase. A vase is a jar, bottle, or other container that is used to hold flowers.
3. Sunflower seeds are good to eat. People, birds, and other animals, including squirrels and chipmunks, love to eat sunflower seeds. They can be difficult to eat if they are still in their shells, but they are filled with protein and are good for you! Sunflower seeds also have a lot of oil in them. It can be squeezed out and collected. Many people use sunflower oil for cooking.
4. Sunflowers are pretty flowers, and they give us and other animals food. Be careful of the stems, though—they are rough and very scratchy!



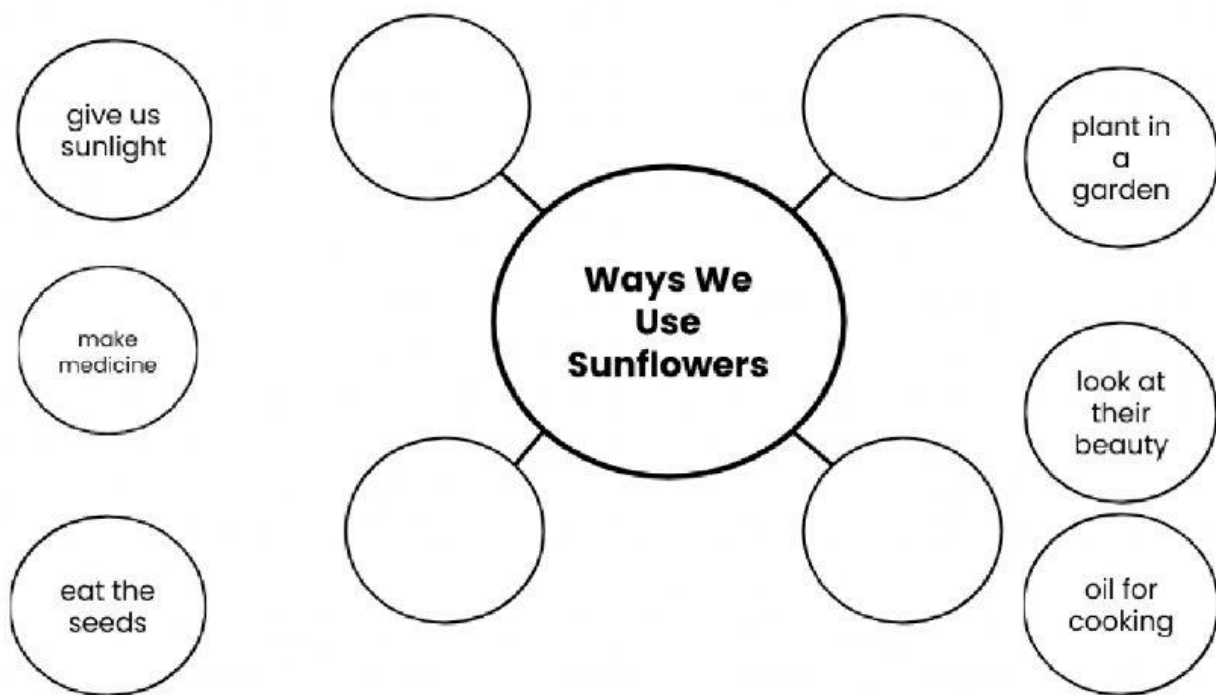
1. Which statement is the main idea of paragraph 2?

- A. Sunflowers are pretty flowers.
- B. Many people put sunflowers in their garden.
- C. Sunflowers look good in a nice vase.
- D. People use sunflowers in different ways.

2. The main idea of the article is -

- A. Many people plant sunflowers in their garden.
- B. Sunflowers are beautiful flowers that can also give us food.
- C. Many people use sunflower oil for cooking.
- D. Sunflowers need a lot of sun to grow.

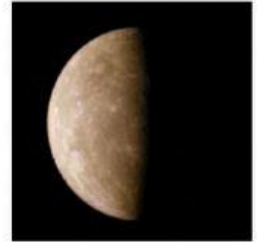
3. Complete the web.



Mercury

By ReadWorks.org

1. Before the 1970s, people didn't know much about the planet Mercury. They knew that Mercury was the smallest planet in our solar system and the closest to the sun. They also knew that the planet orbited the sun in only 88 Earth days, faster than any other planet in our solar system.
2. In the 1970s, scientists sent a space probe to fly by Mercury and take photographs of the planet. The probe wasn't able to take photos of the entire planet, but scientists were able to learn more than they ever had.
3. A second probe, called MESSENGER, was launched in 2004. For a few years it collected a lot of data on Mercury. Now, scientists know much more about Mercury.
4. Mercury is only a little bigger than Earth's moon. In fact, Mercury's surface even has craters like Earth's moon. Comets and meteoroids have hit the planet, leaving dents or pits on its surface. These are called impact craters.
5. There are also some differences between Mercury and Earth's moon. One major difference is that Mercury's surface has curved cliffs. Earth's moon doesn't have them. Astronomers think these cliffs are a sign that the planet has actually shrunk over time.
6. A lot of the facts scientists know about Mercury are from the space probes sent there. However, no one has ever been sent to the planet. It is so close to the sun that it would be dangerous for anyone to go there. Maybe one-day astronauts would be able to travel to the planet and study it.



1. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. Mercury is the smallest planet in our Solar System.
- B. Mercury's surface has craters just like Earth.
- C. Astronomers have found cliffs on Mercury.
- D. Scientists are learning more about Mercury.

2. Paragraphs 2 and 3 tell mostly about -

- A. the name of the probes sent to Mercury.
- B. the size of Mercury compared to Earth.
- C. sending probes to take pictures of Mercury.
- D. the differences between Mercury and Earth.

3. Complete these notes.

<u>Facts About Mercury</u>	
•	It has been hit by comets.
•	It is the smallest planet.
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It is a lot bigger than Earth.	It has curved cliffs.
It orbits the sun slowly.	It has moon like Earth.