

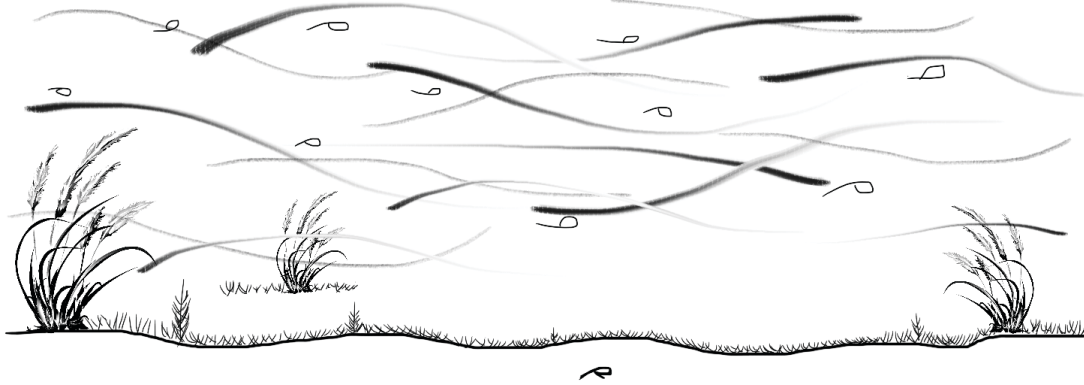
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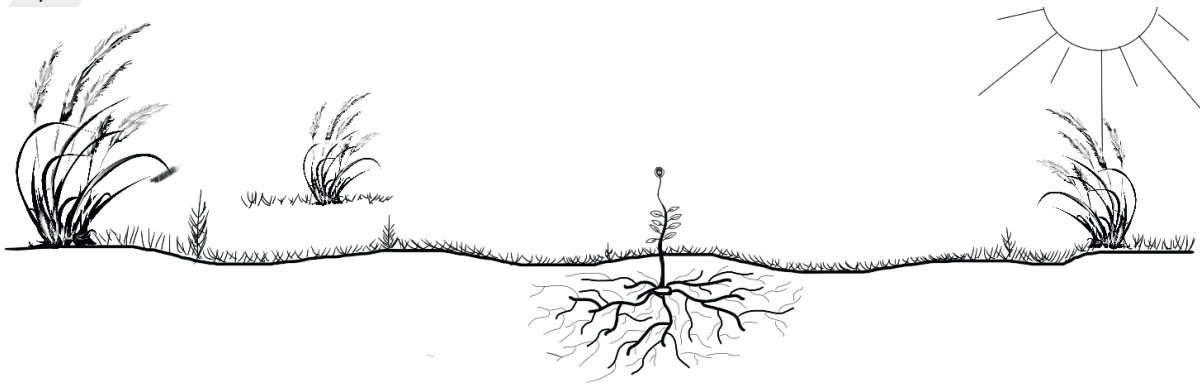
Cal the Cornflower

This activity was created by Toni.

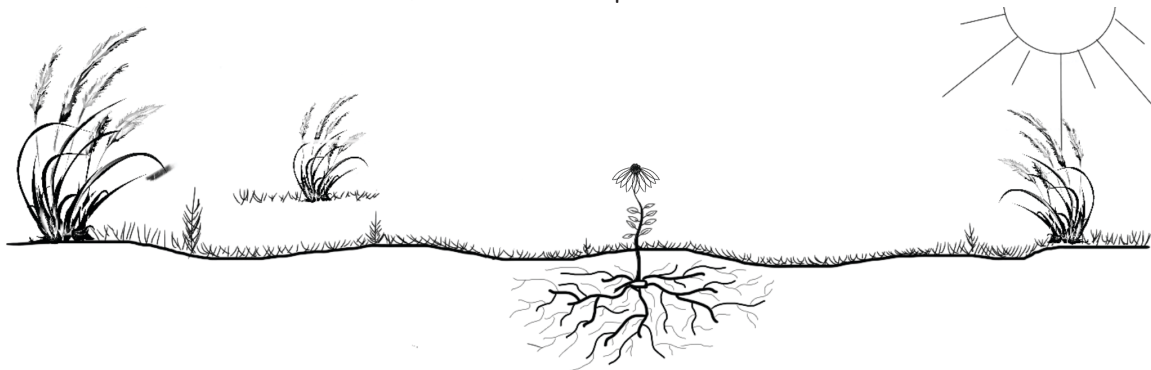
Once upon a time there was a seed named Cal. They were the seed of a purple cornflower and they rode the wind through the prairies of Manitoba to find a place to grow. Cal settled on prairie soil that had lots of water and nutrients.



Cal grew roots to absorb nutrients and anchor themselves to the land. Then, they grew a stem that reached above the earth and into the sun. From that stem grew leaves and a flower bud. Cal loves their leaves because their leaves collect sunlight which Cal turns into food for themselves. This is done through a process called photosynthesis.



With lots of water, sunlight and nutrients, Cal's flower bud opens to reveal a beautiful purple flower that has lots of important parts. Cal's purple petals help protect them from the elements, and attract pollinators.

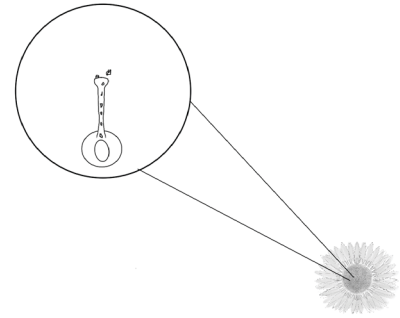
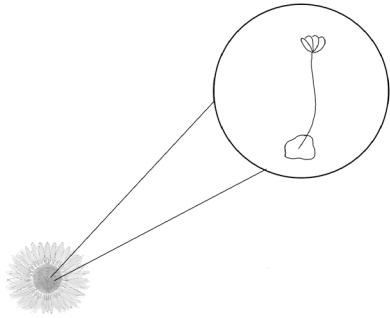


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Cal also has stamens that have nectar on the bottom and fluffy yellow pollen on top.

Between the stamens are Cal's pistils. Pistils are long tubes that pollen travel down to pollinate Cal's ovules.



Cal has lots of bee, butterfly and hummingbird friends that help them pollinate. This is important because it means that the seeds Cal makes will be able to grow into more flowers. Cal's friends bring them pollen from other flowers and in return, Cal gives them the extra nectar they make through photosynthesis.

Eventually summer becomes autumn and Cal's seeds start to fall. Just like Cal's seeds are picked up by strong wind and carried to different areas. Next spring, Cal will have lots of new flower friends!

Near the end of autumn the weather makes Cal very tired and cold. Cal closes their bud and stops growing to save energy. They can't wait for next spring when they'll be able to bloom again!

