

# GROWTH OF CORN

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This exhibit, by showing the relation between a growing corn plant and the forces of nature acting upon it, points at the relation between any growing plant and nature's forces.

## germination

The corn seed is placed in the earth. Rain, sun heat, and air penetrate to the embryo stimulating it to growth.

The embryo plant pushes a simple root into the ground, at the same time projecting a plume of delicate leaves toward the air, sunlight, and rain.

## sprouting

Till now living on food provided in the fleshy seed, the corn seedling drinks by osmosis thru its roots the water-dissolved food from the ground and breathes in simple foods from the air.

As each section forces itself upward pushing a leaf before it, the root forces itself deeper and wider into the earth, seeking moist food.

## fertilization

Along the stem appear the female flowers, sheathed in green husks; and at the end of the stem the male flower splays itself in the air, so that the wind will lift the pollen and carry to the silk of a nearby plant. After lighting upon the corn silk the pollen grows like a seed pushing a long tendril down the length of the silk finally reaching and combining with the unformed seed, stimulating it to development.

## maturity

As the corn plant reaches maturity, the seed ripens on the cob, storing food for germination, and, finally, at complete maturity, falls to the earth beginning again the cycle of seed to seed.