

CHEROKEE TRAIL OF TEARS BEAN

SECOND GRADE: MITCH AGRICULTURE

NAME: _____



I AM A SEED SAVER!



This year, your class will be in charge of harvesting, saving, growing, and returning the Cherokee Trail of Tears Bean Seed from our school garden to the Cherokee community.

This is an important job!

Cherokee Trail of Tears Beans are a special seed and have a special story. As we work through this book, we will learn from Cherokee communities about the importance of this bean to their culture and traditions.

Do you have special foods that are important to your family?



SUMMER

EAT

It is Summer! It is time to take a bite of the bean seeds planted in our garden last Spring.

These bean seeds are very special and taste delicious.

They are originally from the Cherokee Nation and have a very special story that you will learn this year.

THE CHEROKEE NATION

Thousands of years ago, the very first ancestors of the Trail of Tears Beans were grown in Peru. Over hundreds of years, these beans traveled north with Native communities into what is now called the United States. These beans have been cared for by Indigenous communities like the Cherokee ever since.

Indigenous people are "native to a place". That means they were the first people to call that place home. The Cherokee are indigenous to the Southeastern United States.

Beans, along with many other plant foods like corn and squash, are important to the people of the Cherokee Nation. When they are planted together, corn, beans, and squash are called "The Three Sisters".

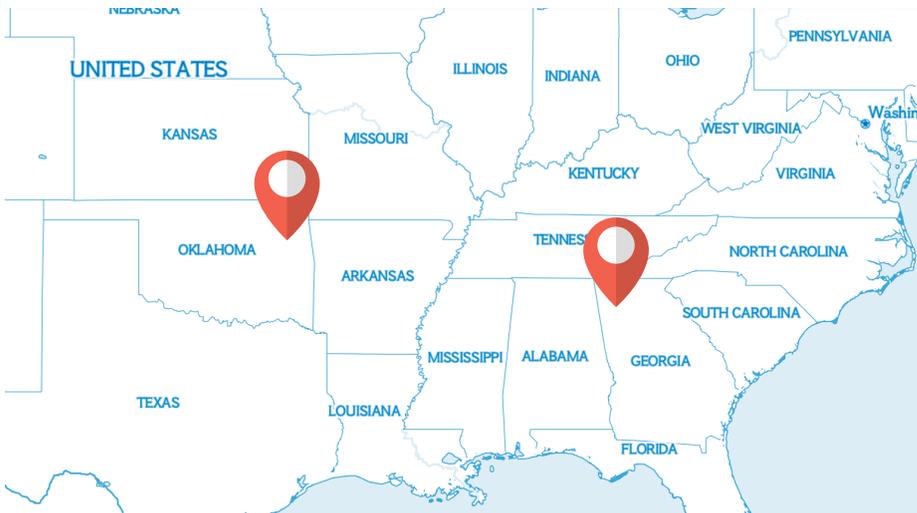
Read Cherokee people describe why Cherokee plants and their seeds are important to them.

"You can't be Cherokee without Cherokee plants. And without Cherokee plants, there can be no Cherokee."

- Pat Gwin, Seed Saver for the Cherokee Nation

"Not only are we protecting the history of these seeds and our culture, we're keeping them alive so we're able to pass them on to future generations,"

- Eugene Wilmeth, Cherokee Gardener



MEASURING THE CHEROKEE TRAIL OF TEARS BEAN



1. Find two bean pods - one short and one long.
2. Draw each bean pod below.
3. Measure each bean with your ruler and write down their length in inches.
4. Look inside each bean.
5. Write down the number of seeds they have inside.



FALL

SAVE

It is Fall! It is time to harvest and save the bean seeds growing in our garden.

It is important for us to save these special bean seeds and give them back to the Cherokee Nation.

Planting their special seeds is one way that the Cherokee show **Otsaliheliga** - that they are grateful.

What are some ways that you show you are grateful?



DRAW A TRAIL OF TEARS BEAN SEED AND POD





WINTER RETURN

We have learned about the importance of the Cherokee Trail of Tears Bean to the Cherokee Nation.

There is more to this story.

The Cherokee have been treated unfairly. We will learn about these difficult stories from the Cherokee themselves. These stories will help us understand why it is important to return these seeds to the Cherokee.



In 1835, the United States government forced 17,000 Cherokee people to leave their homeland and walk 1,000 miles to Oklahoma.

It was a very difficult journey.

4,000 Cherokee were killed or died along the way.

US troops took Cherokee land and many of their belongings. Much of the Cherokee seeds were lost.

The Cherokee protected the Trail of Tears bean seed throughout this terrible journey and still do today.

Today, the Cherokee are growing the seeds that made it through the Trail of Tears in the Cherokee Nation's first Native Plant Garden in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

In this garden, Cherokee gardeners grow and save corn, squash, bean, gourd, and native flower seeds.

They protect these seeds in their Seed Bank and share them with other Cherokee gardeners.

How would you feel if you were forced to leave your home? What would you bring with you to remember it by?



MESSAGE FROM MITCH

We are returning the Trail of Tears Bean seeds grown in our garden back to the Cherokee Nation.

We have learned from Cherokee gardeners that Cherokee plants are important to Cherokee culture. It is important that they always have them.

Write a message and draw a picture to send with these seeds to the Cherokee community.



SPRING SPROUT

Today, we will sprout the Trail of Tears Bean seeds.

Together, we will continue the life cycle of this seed and grow more seeds to send to the Cherokee community.

The word for Beans in the Cherokee language is spelled ᏍᏏ, said, "Tuya".

TRAIL OF TEARS BEAN

Draw your bean as a seed and after it sprouts.



SEED

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for drawing a bean seed.

SPROUT

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for drawing a bean sprout.



SUMMER PLANT

Today, we will plant the Trail of Tears Beans.

These plants will grow more bean seeds and future second graders will return them to the Cherokee Nation.

The Trail of Tears Bean helps us remember the Trail of Tears. This memory is difficult, but it is important that we remember and honor those who experienced it, so it will never happen again.

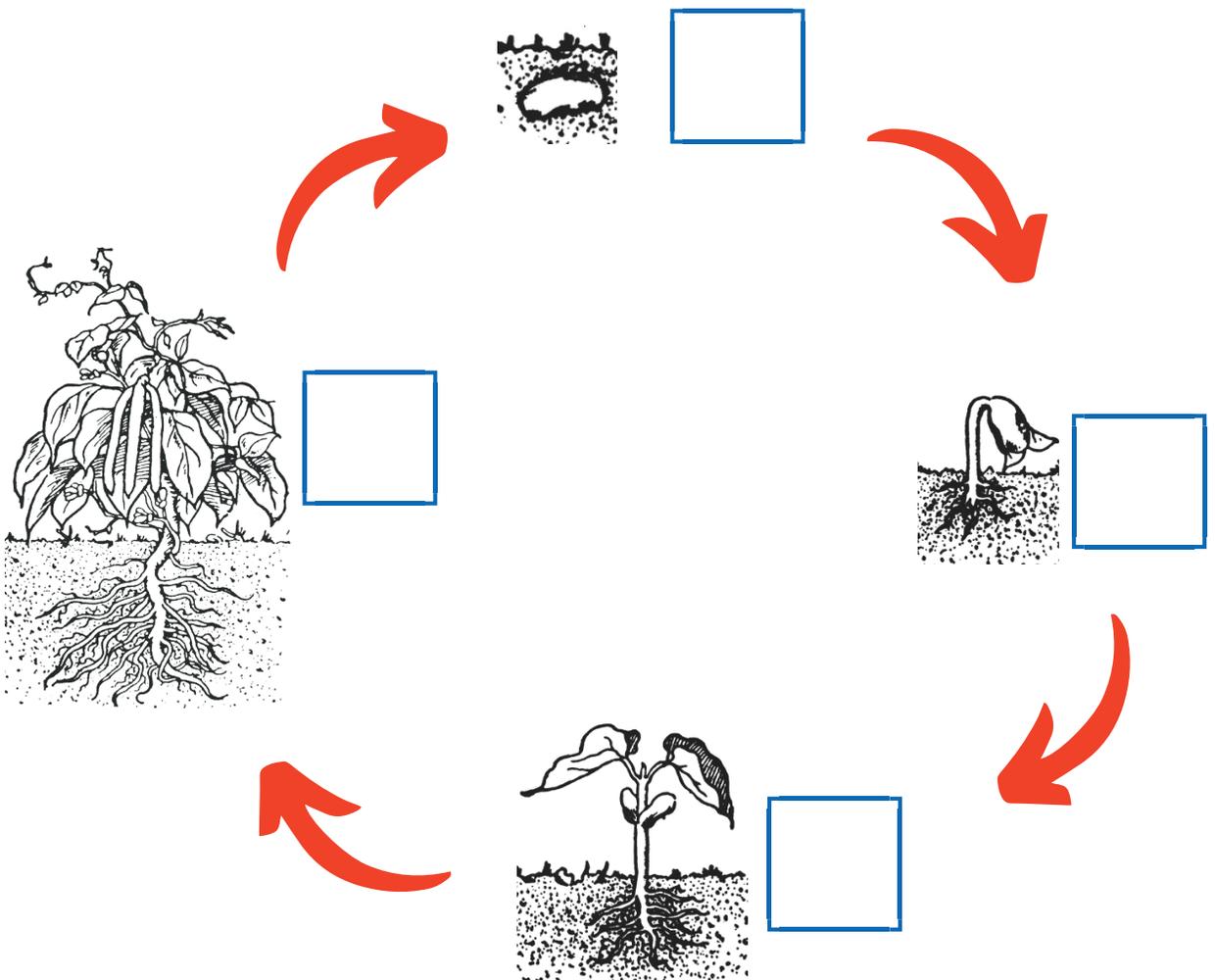
THE LIFE CYCLE OF BEANS

When you plant a bean seed, you start its life all over again!

If a bean seed is not planted in the soil, it will die.

You are important to the life cycle of the Trail of Tears Bean!

Number the steps of the bean life cycle, starting with planting the seed.



WRITE A NOTE TO A SECOND GRADER

Next year, you will be a third grader!

There will be new second graders that will harvest and return more of the Trail of Tears Bean seeds to the Cherokee community.

Saving seeds is a way to save memories. It helps communities remember the important and sometimes difficult events that happened to them. Even though these memories are difficult to remember, it important that we don't forget them. We can make sure that these events never happen again, and honor and support the people who were hurt.

Below, write the future second graders a note about how and why we return these seeds to the Cherokee.



MITCH AGRICULTURE: CHEROKEE TRAIL OF TEARS BEAN