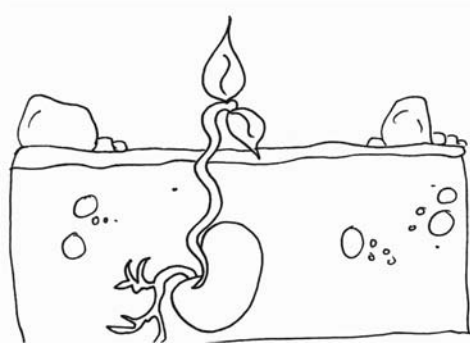


Name _____

Exploring Reproduction in Woody Plants



Woody plants, including trees and shrubs, employ various methods of reproduction to ensure the continuation of their species. From the production of seeds to vegetative propagation, these plants have evolved diverse strategies to thrive in their environments.

Seed Reproduction

One common method of reproduction in woody plants is through seeds. Seeds develop from fertilized ovules within the female reproductive structures, such as flowers or cones. Once mature, seeds are dispersed by wind, water, animals, or gravity, allowing for colonization of new habitats.

Vegetative Reproduction

Woody plants also have the ability to reproduce vegetatively, without the need for seeds. This method involves the generation of new plants from existing vegetative structures, such as stems, roots, or leaves. Examples of vegetative reproduction include:

- **Root Suckers:** New shoots arise from the roots of the parent plant.
- **Stolons or Runners:** Horizontal stems, also known as stolons or runners, grow along the soil surface and produce new plants at nodes.
- **Rhizomes:** Underground stems called rhizomes give rise to new shoots and roots.
- **Cuttings:** Portions of stems or roots are cut and planted to generate new plants.
- **Layering:** Stems are bent and buried in soil, where they develop roots and form independent plants.