

Grade Level: 3

Title: Parts of a Strawberry Plant

Purpose:

Students will explain and analyze the parts of a plant.

Subject Area(s) Addressed:

Science

Common Core/Essential Standards:

Science:

3 .L.2.1 Remember the function of the following structures as it relates to the survival of plants in their environments:

Roots - absorb nutrients

Stems - provide support

Leaves - synthesize food

Flowers - attract pollinators and produce seeds for reproduction

Vocabulary:

flowers

leaves

nutrients

pollination

roots

seeds

stems

Materials Needed:

strawberry plants

Seed to Plant, by Gail Gibbons

student copies of worksheet "Strawberry Plant"

Teaching Strategy:

Essential Question:

What are the parts of the strawberry plant and what is the function of each?

Begin by reading the book ***Seed to Plant***, by Gail Gibbons. Students can look at the plant used in the book to compare to the strawberry plant. It is recommended that this standard and book be taught over several weeks. You can take each plant part and spend a week on it.

Activity:

Have students dissect the strawberry plants. Have them examine each part of the strawberry plant by comparing it to the plant depicted in the book. Students will make a tree map using student drawn pictures of the plant parts as the headers of each category. Next, have them list details describing each plant part and its function. If the students are observing strawberry plants growing in pots or

a garden raised bed, they will be able to watch the plant grow and see how each part functions.

Extension Activities:

1. Have students brainstorm a list of items in a salad. Ask them to determine what part of the vegetable plant they eat. For example, carrots - root; cucumbers - fruit; celery - stem; lettuce - leaves. They could do this with several other vegetables and fruits as well. Turnips are a good example to show that more than one part of some plants are edible. The root and the leaves of the turnip plant are both edible.
2. If you are growing a strawberry garden, plant 9 extra plants in pots near the garden or at one end of the garden, so they get similar sun, water, and fertilization. Each month, dig up one of these plants and dissect it to see how the parts have changed in size, color, and weight. Have students weigh the whole plant, then weigh parts separately (e.g., roots, crown, leaves).

Background Information:

Note that the stem of the strawberry plant is highly compressed, and makes up the “crown”. The leaves each have a long “stem” (not a true stem), which is called a *petiole*. The scientific name for a runner is a *stolon*.

Assessment:

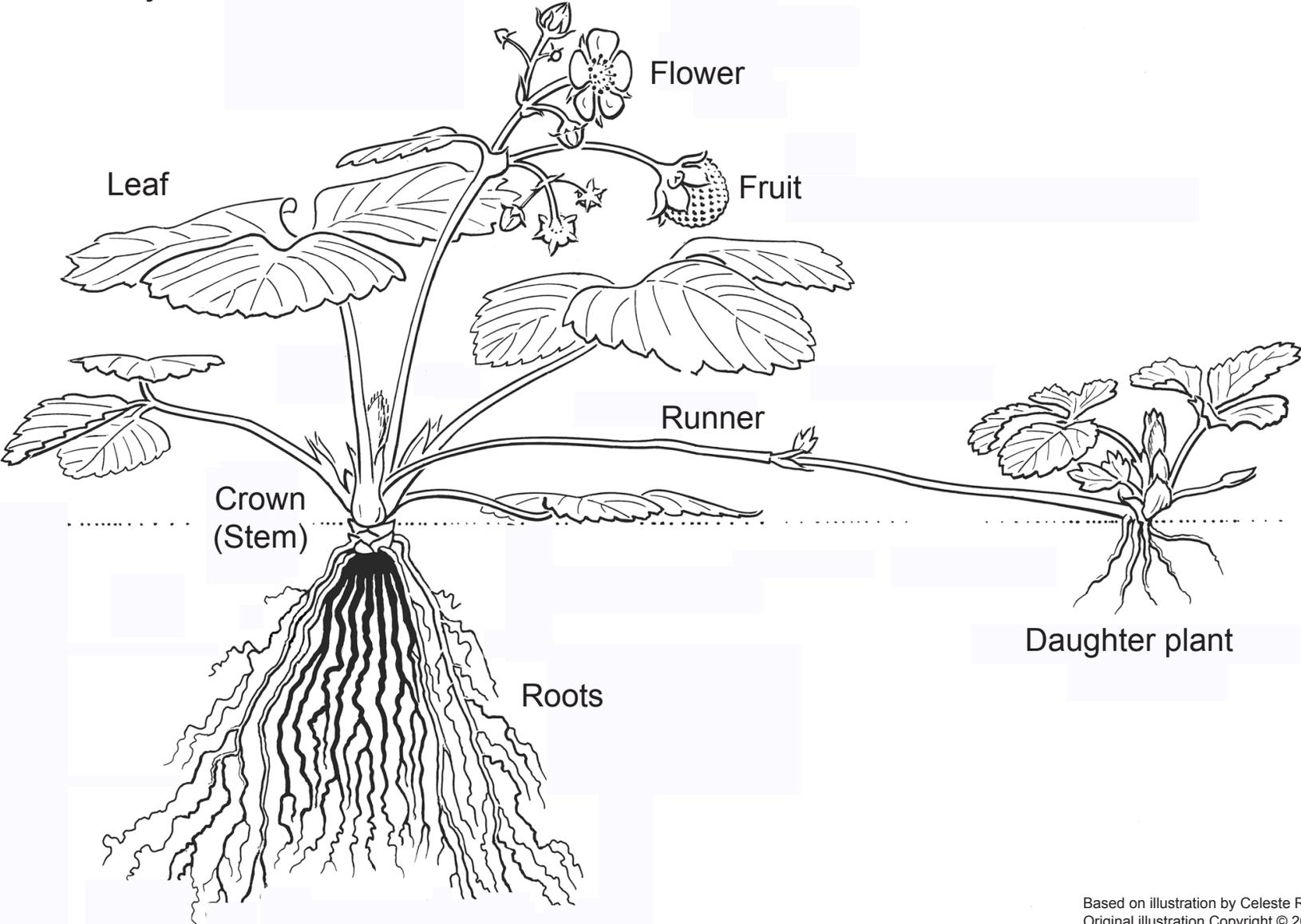
1. Science journal
2. Correctly label the parts of the “Strawberry Plant”

North Carolina Strawberry Association – www.ncstrawberry.com

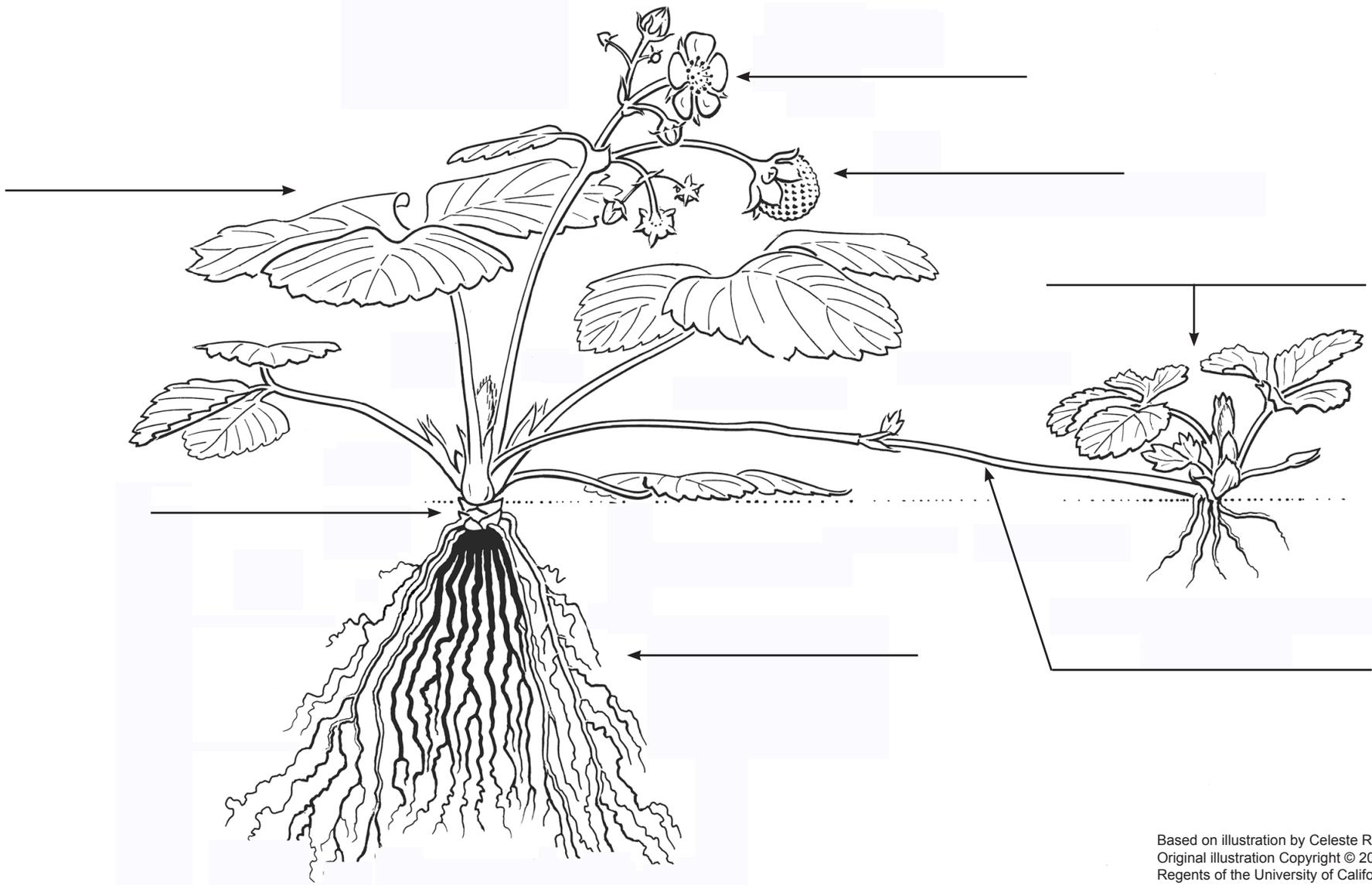
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Strawberry Plant



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