

TWINKL NEWS

OLDEST PLANT EVER IS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE!

7 This week, clever scientists have managed to
14 grow a narrow-leafed plant from seeds that
19 are almost 30,000 years old!

28 The old seeds were found in Russia last month.
36 They are thought to have been hidden inside
43 burrows by Arctic ground squirrels. The seeds
50 had not been damaged because they were
56 hidden underground for so long. Scientists
63 found more than sixty thousand of them!

69 The scientists worked carefully and found
79 out that only three of the seeds still had tiny
86 plants inside. The seeds were nurtured and
93 given food, light, warmth and oxygen. The
100 scientists were amazingly able to grow the
107 seeds into adult plants. The plants' petals
113 were a shape that humans had
116 never seen before.



Questions



1. Look at the first sentence. Find and copy the word that describes the leaves on the plant.



2. How many of the seeds had tiny plants inside? Tick one.

- ☐ none of them
☐ sixty
☐ three
☐ all of them



3. Why do you think the Arctic ground squirrels hid the seeds inside the burrows?



4. This experiment was a success. What might scientists do now?

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Answers



1. Look at the first sentence. Find and copy the word that describes the leaves on the plant.

narrow



2. How many of the seeds had tiny plants inside? Tick one.

- ☐ none of them
☐ sixty
☒ **three**
☐ all of them



3. Why do you think the Arctic ground squirrels hid the seeds inside the burrows?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the squirrels hid the seeds so that they could eat them at a later date.



4. This experiment was a success. What might scientists do now?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that scientists will look for more old seeds and grow them into plants.