

Coconuts are like little lifeboats. They float in water, and inside, they safely carry something important. It's a tree **seed**.

Coconuts grow high in palm trees. If the coconuts fall onto a beach, waves wash them into the ocean. Once they are in the water, they float until they come to land. This is how coconut seeds are scattered.



Now the coconut sits in the sunshine. The warmth slowly breaks open the outside husk. Inside the husk is a hard shell. And inside the shell is the seed.



The layers of a coconut

WOWSER!

Sometimes coconuts float thousands of miles from where they began their journey.



If the new place has enough warmth, light, and water, the seed will **sprout** and grow. The young plant's new **leaves** and **roots** push through holes in the shell. The roots grow into the ground, and the leaves push up toward the Sun. The new coconut plant grows bigger, and one day it will produce coconuts, too.



✓ Brain Check

- How are coconuts like lifeboats?
- What are the three parts of a coconut?
- Why wouldn't a coconut seed sprout at the North Pole?