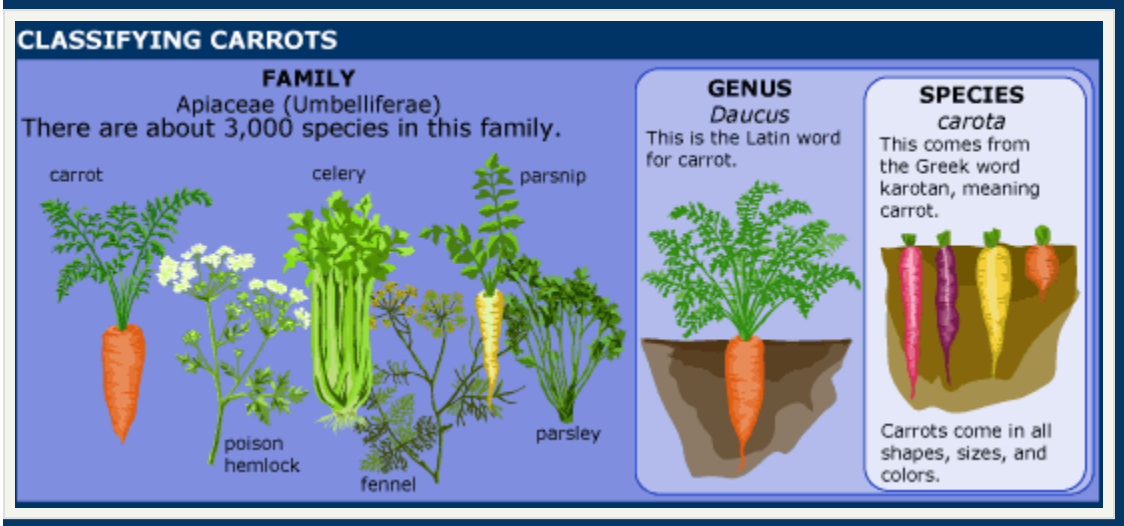
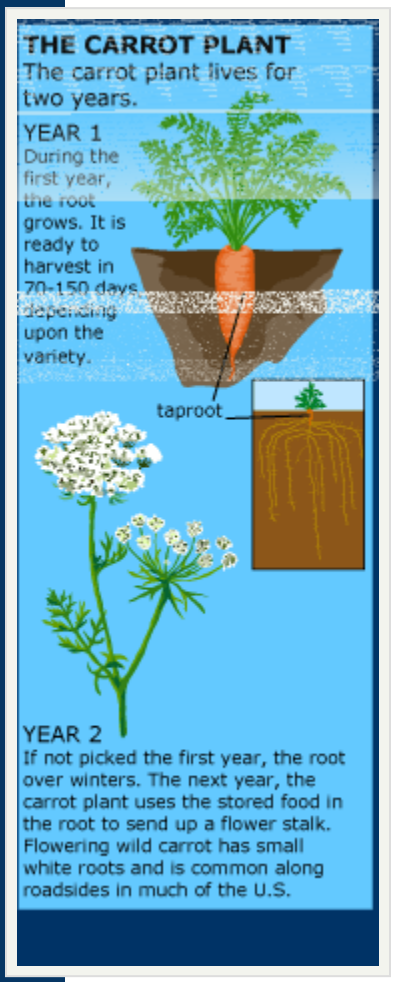
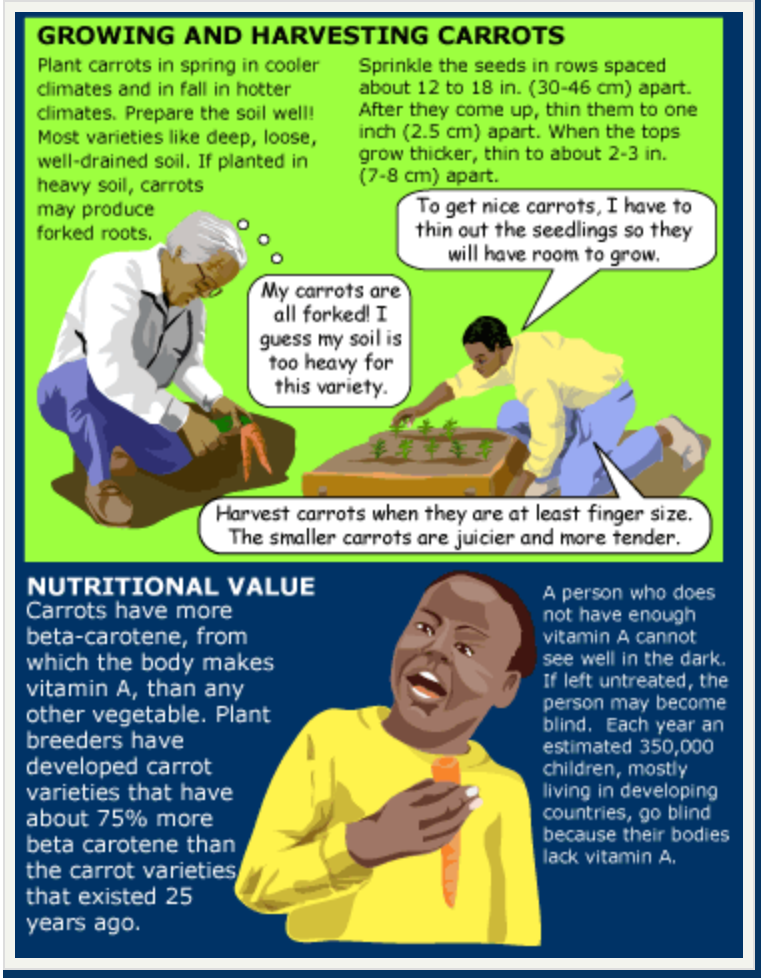
Carrots

DID YOU KNOW?
The first carrots were not orange. In the 1500s, the Dutch bred purple carrots with yellow carrots to develop the first orange carrots.
ORIGINS
White carrots are native to Europe and red carrots are native to Asia. Yellow and purple carrots are native to the area now called Afghanistan.
Today purple carrots are still grown and eaten in Central Asia, North Africa, China, India, and the Middle East.


CLASSIFYING CARROTS
FAMILY
Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)
There are about 3,000 species in this family.
carrot
celery
parsnip
poison hemlock
fennel
parsley
GENUS
Daucus
This is the Latin word for carrot.
SPECIES
carota
This comes from the Greek word karotan, meaning carrot.
Carrots come in all shapes, sizes, and colors.


THE CARROT PLANT
The carrot plant lives for two years.
YEAR 1
During the first year, the root grows. It is ready to harvest in 70-150 days depending upon the variety.
taproot
YEAR 2
If not picked the first year, the root over winters. The next year, the carrot plant uses the stored food in the root to send up a flower stalk. Flowering wild carrot has small white roots and is common along roadsides in much of the U.S.



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