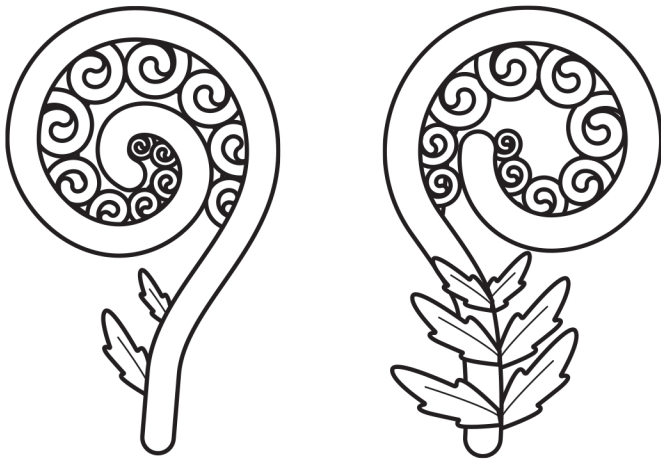


**Word Bank:**

fern

flat

grow

spring

Fiddleheads

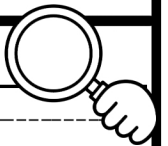
Every fern frond starts out as a fiddlehead. A fiddlehead is a tightly coiled young leaf, curled up so it looks like the scroll at the top of a violin, which is called a fiddle. This is exactly how the fiddlehead got its name! As a fiddlehead grows, it slowly begins to unfurl, or unroll, opening up bit by bit until it becomes a flat, spreading frond. This coiled shape isn't just for looks. It helps protect the delicate, growing tip of the leaf while it's still young and fragile. In some places, the fiddleheads of certain fern species, like the ostrich fern, are picked in early spring and cooked as a vegetable. Not all fiddleheads are edible, though, so people only eat fiddleheads they know are safe.

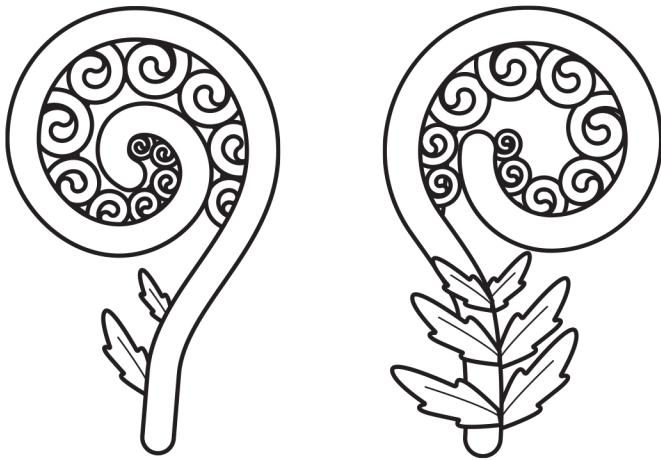
1. What is a fiddlehead?

2. Why does a fiddlehead grow in a tightly coiled shape?

3. What does "unfurl" mean?

4. What happens to a fiddlehead as it grows?



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fern

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Fiddleheads

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1. What is a fiddlehead?

A fiddlehead is a fern's tightly coiled young leaf.

2. Why does a fiddlehead grow in a tightly coiled shape?

The coiled shape helps protect the delicate, growing tip of the leaf while it's young.

3. What does "unfurl" mean?

"Unfurl" means to slowly open up and unroll from a tightly curled shape.

4. What happens to a fiddlehead as it grows?

As a fiddlehead grows, it slowly unfurls and opens up into a flat, spreading frond.

