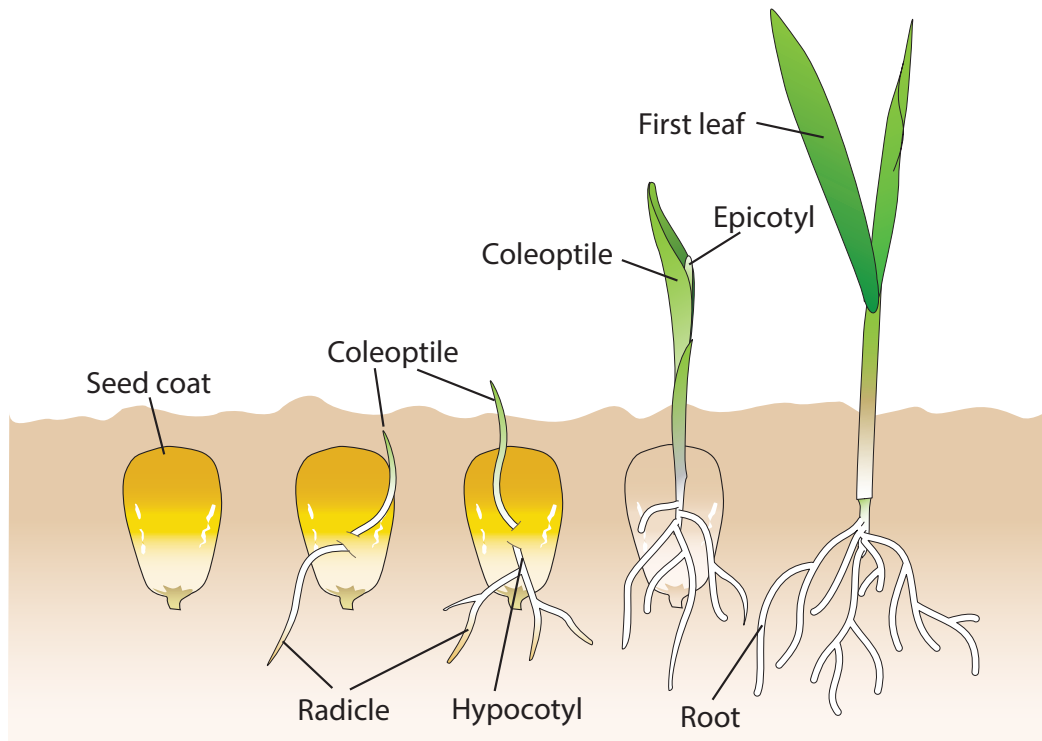


## Emerging Corn Plant Structures and Functions



**Seed coat:** protects the starch and embryo from insects and diseases, both at planting and in storage.

**Corn seed radicle:** first part of a growing plant embryo that emerges from the seed during germination. The radicle is the first root of the plant and grows downward in the soil.

**Corn seed coleoptile:** a pointed protective sheath covering the emerging shoot (epicotyl) that pushes above the ground for the first leaves to appear.

**Corn seed hypocotyl:** region between the radicle and the coleoptile, which forms more roots.

**Corn seed epicotyl:** region inside the coleoptile that forms the leaves and stems.

**First leaf:** the true first leaf comes from the inside of the coleoptile and is distinguished by having a rounded tip. All other future leaves have a pointed tip. This first leaf will fall off as the plant is growing and the stem is enlarging. After six leaves have grown, the first true leaf is hard to find.