

Conifers and flowering plants do not protect their seeds in the same way. They are therefore divided into two categories: gymnosperms and angiosperms (see *Figures 25 to 28*). A conifer is a **gymnosperm**, which means “naked seed,” since its seeds are protected only by a seed coat. A flowering plant is an **angiosperm**, meaning “enclosed seed.” Its seeds can be enclosed in a pod (e.g. beans), a shell (e.g. nuts), or pulp (e.g. apples).



Figure 25 Certain angiosperms, such as the sunflower, produce large flowers.



Figure 26 A pea pod is actually a fruit consisting of the ovary (peas) and flower (hull) that have reached maturity.



Figure 27 Gymnosperm seeds are well protected inside the cone. When they fall to the ground, however, the cone offers them little protection.



Figure 28 Ferns do not need seeds to reproduce. Instead, they reproduce by means of spores.