

Plants

What I should already know

- Plants can grow.
- The names of some common garden plants (e.g. poppy, rose)
- The names of some common wild plants (e.g. daisy, dandelion, nettle).
- Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the autumn every year.
- Evergreen trees have green leaves all year round.
- The parts of a plant including petals, fruits, roots, bulbs, seeds, stem, trunks and branches.

Investigate!

- Go on a plant/tree hunt. What do you notice about what they look like?
- Plant a bulb or a seed and watch it grow. Record your observations in a diary.
- Compare the growth of that plant with a plant (using the same bulb or seed) where one of the conditions is different (no water, no light, a smaller container).
- Plant a seed on a wet cotton bud. Does it grow? Why might it grow for a little while and then stop?

Key Vocabulary

Seeds	The part of a plant from which a new plant grows.
Roots	Hold the plant to the ground and absorb the water and nutrients from the soil.
Stem	Transports water and nutrients to different parts of the plant.
Leaves	Use light, air and water to make food for the plant.
Flower	The part of the plant that blossoms. Flowers produce the seeds that form new plants.
Petals	Attracts pollinators such as bees using their bright colours or unusual shapes.
Disperse	How flowers spread their seeds.
Germinate	This is when a seed begins to grow using its stored food, and puts out roots and shoots.
Reproduce	When an animal or plant produces one or more individuals similar to itself.

Key knowledge

- Plants require things such as water, warmth, nutrients from soil and light to grow.
- If they do not have one or more of these things, they may stop growing.
- Plants can: move, grow, react to their surroundings (sense), absorb nutrients and reproduce.
- When seeds are planted, they grow roots. Once these roots take hold, a small plant will begin to emerge and eventually break through the soil. When this happens, we say that the seed has sprouted. The scientific name for this process is **germination**.
- Because plants cannot walk around and take their seeds to other places, they have developed other methods to **disperse** (move) their seeds.
- Plants can disperse their seeds by getting eaten by animals and digested or by getting buried by animals like squirrels. Smaller seeds with wings or feather-like structures such as a dandelion can be blown by the wind. Many plants that live in or by water can often float and get carried away by the water. Even larger seeds like coconut can float!

Key questions

What things does a plant need to grow?

What is germination?

