

Activity – How do you grow?

Year 2 programme of study (statutory requirements)

Plants

Pupils should be taught to:

- observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants.
- find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.

Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Pupils might work scientifically by: observing and recording, with some accuracy, the growth of a variety of plants as they change over time from a seed or bulb, or observing similar plants at different stages of growth; setting up a comparative test to show that plants need light and water to stay healthy.

Resources needed

A number of larger seeds - Runner beans, broad beans or peas are ideal.

Four seed trays

Sticky labels for each tray

Compost, two cardboard boxes to fit over the seed trays that will have no light, water and a small watering can

Preparation

Put the following combinations in the seed trays and label accordingly:

Compost WITH water

Compost WITH water NO light

Compost WITHOUT water

Compost WITHOUT water NO light

Description of the activity

Lay out each of the trays on a table. Put the cardboard boxes over the two trays that need no light

Explain that you need some help to work out how to make your crops grow better.

You can ask the children what they think you might need to help your crops grow.

Explain that you have set up an experiment so that the children can help you to find out which of the things you have just discussed are the most important.

Hopefully, one of the children will have mentioned soil. Explain that soil is very important and that is why it is in every tray.

Explain that aside from the soil, the children will be finding out whether light or no light and water or no water is best for the crops.

Tell the children that they will be planting seeds in each of the trays. They will take the trays back to school and look after them according to the instructions on each tray. Each day, they will measure the plant to see how much it is growing. After five days, they will compare the plants to see which has grown the most.

Give each of the pupils a seed and get them to plant them in a tray. Ensure there are an equal amount of seeds in each tray.

Water the trays that require water. Recover with the boxes those trays that are going without light.

Ask the children what they think the outcome will be. Which seedlings do they think will be the biggest?

Explain that it is very important that you know the outcome of the experiment and ask if they could please email / write to you with the results!



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