

Activity: Parts of a plant

National Curriculum Links

Working scientifically

- asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them
- making systematic and careful observations
- recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables

Plants

- identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers.
- explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant.
- investigate the way in which water is transported within plants.

Suggested Park Location – Old English Garden

What do we need?

Labelling Plants resource sheet

Pencils

Clipboards

Card double layer 'windows' 3cmx3cm (see below)

Selection of leaves



What do we do?

- Look at the variety of plants in the garden. What are the elements that plants need to grow?
- Look at a plant together and name the parts of it.
 - What is it about the structure of these parts that make them suitable for their job?
- Pupils choose a plant and a tree to look at to help them complete the labels on their sheet. The pupils could work in groups, pairs or individually.
- Re-gather as a class and review the pupils' sheets.
- Give pairs of pupils a cardboard window. Each pair to pick one leaf, either from a plant or from the floor. (NB. ensure that children do not overly damage any of the plants in the location.)
- Place it between the folds of the window and hold it up to the light so that the inner structures of the leaf are highlighted.
- Pupils can swap leaves to compare what they notice.
- Whole class can discuss what they see and what the structures are for. Discuss what plants need in order to thrive.
 - Were there any leaves they couldn't see through? (waxy coated evergreen plants are more opaque than deciduous trees).
 - How do plants make energy? If pupils aren't secure in their understanding of photosynthesis, "When you look at a leaf held up to the light you can see its veins. Like the veins in our bodies which transport our blood, the leaf's veins transport food and water around the plant." You can liken leaves to solar panels that convert light into energy.

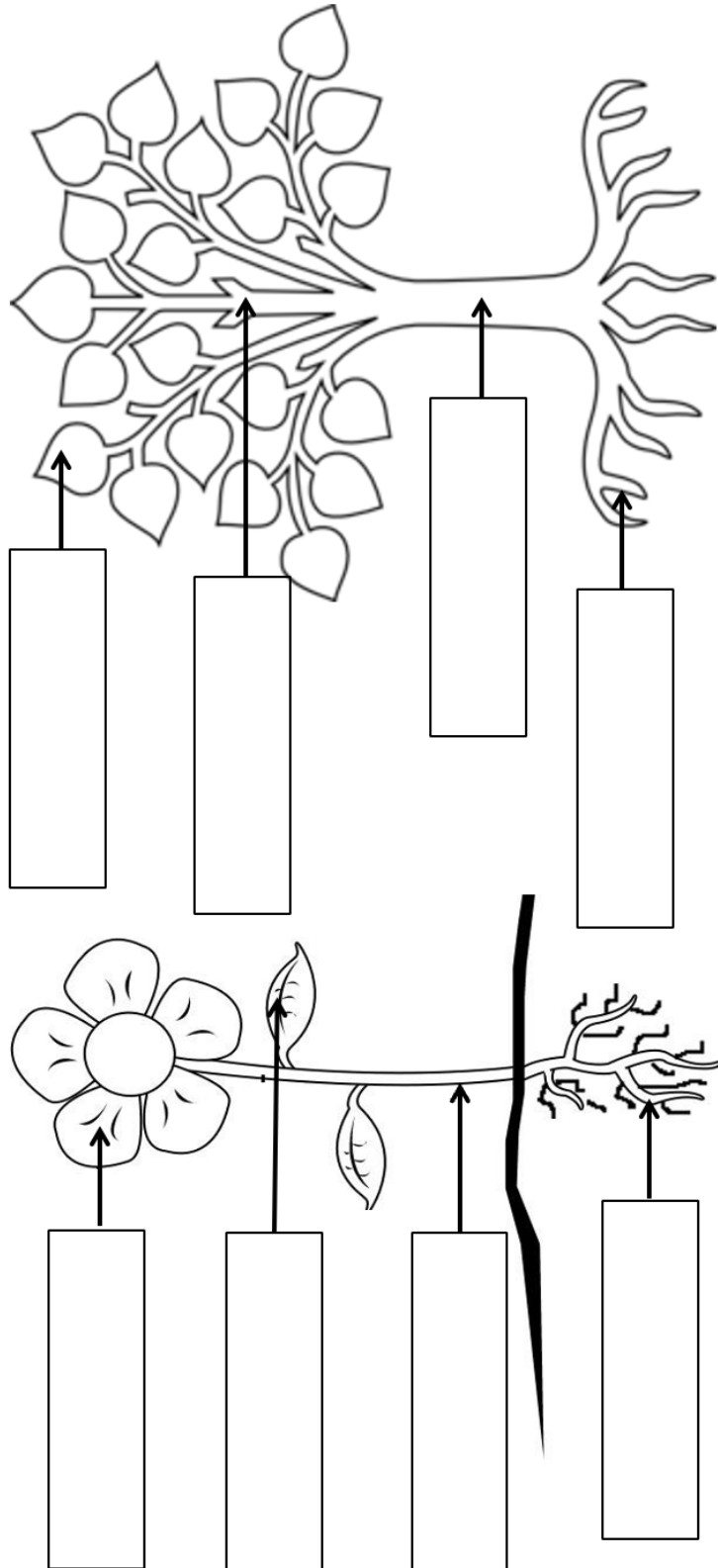


Labelling plants resource sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Identify the parts of plants

Roots Branch Leaf Trunk Stem Petal



Card window reference sheet

