

Introduction

In this unit about plants, children will learn to name the basic parts of a plant, including seeds. They will have the opportunity to plant their own seeds and to make observations of how they grow over time. Children will also learn to identify, name and describe a variety of garden and wild plants as well as evergreen and deciduous trees. In their final lesson, the children will use all of their knowledge gained throughout the topic to identify, compare and classify plants.

Health & Safety

Throughout this unit, children will be handling live plants. Please ensure that you have checked the suitability/toxicity of the plants for handling. Discuss with the children how to handle plants correctly and remind them not to eat or put any of the plants in their mouth. Ensure that children wash their hands after handling plants and seeds.

In lesson 1 of this unit, the children will be observing seeds and bulbs as well as planting their own seeds. Some bulbs can be poisonous, so it is strongly recommended that the children do not handle the bulbs.

In lessons 3 and 4 of this unit, the children will be outside in the school grounds observing plants and trees in the school environment. If your school does not have suitable outdoor spaces for these activities, these could be completed in a local park for example, in which case you will need to ensure that a relevant risk assessment is undertaken for your class. Lesson 4 includes an indoor activity if access to an area with trees is difficult.

In lesson 5, you may wish for the children to taste fruit and vegetables. Please ensure that all relevant allergies are known and that any food used is safe for use in your class.

Home Learning

Parts of a Plant

In this task, children identify and name the parts of a plant and tree.

Plants

In this task, children identify and name garden and wild plants. They then sort them using a given criteria.

Interests and Talents/Broader Development

Children may be interested in learning more about different plants. This might include finding out about plants that grow in different climates/ more tropical plants and more about how food comes from plants. A visit to a local plant nursery or a local farm would allow children to broaden their knowledge further.

Digital Resources

Accompanying this unit is a helpful Knowledge Organiser that collates the subject knowledge for the unit and is used throughout the unit. There are also Reasoning Cards related to the unit, designed to develop deep thinking skills in science.

The following resources are not essential to use as part of the PlanIt unit; however, they would help children to revise and consolidate the learning in the lessons. Please be aware that in order to access these digital resources, you will need to have an ultimate subscription.

Children will love these fantastic interactive games, quizzes and videos that link to this science unit:

[Interactive PDF: Home Learning: Parts of a Plant](#)

[Interactive PDF: Home Learning: Naming Plants](#)

[Quick Facts: Evergreen and Deciduous Trees Video](#)

[Parts of a Plant Interactive Labelling Activity](#)

[Plants and Growth Interactive Matching Activity](#)

Assessment Statements

By the end of this unit...

Working Towards the Expected Level:

Scientific Knowledge

- With support, children can begin to describe some simple features of seeds and plants, such as their colour. They can begin to say how some plants are the same or different to one another.
- With support, children can begin to identify and name the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants.
- With support, children identify and begin to name some common wild and garden plants.
- With support, children name some deciduous and evergreen trees. They begin to name the parts of a tree.
- With support, children identify and name some fruit and vegetable plants. They begin to identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common plants.
- With support, children can identify and name some common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees.

Working Scientifically

- With support, children can make careful observations, sometimes using equipment, of plants and seeds. They can begin to form questions they want to ask.
- With support, children begin to make close observations of plants.
- With support, children begin to observe the natural world around them.
- With support, children begin to observe closely. They begin to identify, classify and sort plants from their observations.
- With support, children begin to identify similarities and differences between plants.

Working At the Expected Level:

Scientific Knowledge

- Children can describe some of the features of seeds and plants. They can begin to make comparisons of different plants and seeds.
- Children can identify, name and begin to describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants.
- Children identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants.
- Children identify and name a variety of deciduous and evergreen trees. They identify, name and describe the basic parts of a tree.
- Children identify and name a variety of fruit and vegetable plants. They identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common plants.
- Children can identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees.

Working Scientifically

Children can make careful observations, sometimes using equipment to help them, of seeds and plants. They can explore the world around them, leading them to ask some simple scientific questions about how and why things happen.

Children can make close observations of plants.

Children can observe the natural world around them.

Children can observe closely. They can identify, classify and sort plants from their observations. They begin to explain their choices using simple scientific language.

Children can identify similarities and differences between plants and begin to sort them according to a given criteria.

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Working At Greater Depth:

Scientific Knowledge

- Children can describe more detailed features of seeds and plants. They can make comparisons of different plants and seeds, explaining their ideas clearly.
- Children can identify, name and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants.
- Children identify, name and describe a variety of common wild and garden plants.
- Children identify and name a variety of deciduous and evergreen trees. They identify, name and describe the parts of a tree, offering comparisons.
- Children identify and name a variety of fruit and vegetable plants. They identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common plants, offering comparisons.
- Children can identify and name a wide variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees.

Working Scientifically

- Children can independently make careful observations, using equipment to help them, of seeds and plants. They can explore the world around them, leading them to ask more complex scientific questions about how and why things happen.
- Children can make close observations of plants and can compare and contrast their observations.
- Children can observe the natural world around them and compare simple features of objects, materials and living things.
- Children can observe closely. They can identify, classify and sort plants from their observations, choosing their own criteria for classifying and sorting. They are able to explain their choices using simple scientific language.
- Children can identify similarities and differences between plants and sort them both according to a given criteria and their own criteria.

Lesson Breakdown

1. Making Observations

Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.

Asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways.

Observing closely, using simplewequipment.

To describe and compare plants, seeds and bulbs.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)

Standard School Equipment:

- Water
- Labels
- Magnifying Glasses

Resources That May Need Purchasing:

- Seeds and bulbs for planting
- Seeds and bulbs for observing (if the Seeds and Bulbs Photo Pack is not used)
- Suggested seeds and bulbs: beans, tomatoes, sunflower, carrot,
- quick grow salad seeds, wild flower seeds, onion, garlic
- Fully-grown plants (if the Plants Photo Pack is not used)
- Plant pots and soil for planting seeds



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Lesson Breakdown

2. The Parts of a Plant

Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.

Observing closely, using simple equipment.

To name and compare the parts of plants.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)

Resources that may need purchasing:
Fully-grown flowering plants that are easily removed from their pots (check that these are safe for handling)



3. Garden and Wild Plants

Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees.

Observing closely, using simple equipment.

To identify and name some common garden and wild plants.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)

Standard School Equipment:

- Magnifying glasses (if required)
- Camera



4. Terrific Trees

Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees.

Observing closely, using simple equipment

Identifying and classifying

To identify and name some common trees.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)

Standard School Equipment:

- Magnifying glasses (if required)



5. Fruit and Vegetable Plants

Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees.

Identifying and classifying.

To name, sort and compare some common fruit and vegetable plants.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)

Resources that may need purchasing:
Optional for observing and comparing: a variety of fruit and vegetables (including stem, leaf, flower and root vegetables).

If you wish for children to taste the fruit and vegetables, please ensure that all relevant allergies are known and that any food used is safe for your class.



6. Comparing Plants

Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees

Using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions.

To name and compare some common plants and trees.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)

Resources that may need purchasing:
A variety of live plants (if required)

You may wish to use sorting hoops for the practical activity if these are available (optional)

