

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit introduces children to the idea of plants as living things which grow and change. Children should become aware of similarities and differences in plants.

Experimental and investigative work focuses on:

- turning ideas into a form that can be tested
- making and recording observations
- using results to communicate what happened and to draw conclusions.

Children also have opportunities to link their knowledge of how plants grow to their understanding of science and to ways in which growing plants should be treated with sensitivity.

This unit takes approximately 9 hours.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This is the introductory unit for plants.

Builds on Unit 1A 'Ourselves'

Children need:

- to know that animals (including humans) are alive and grow.

Links with Units 1C, 2B, 2C.

VOCABULARY

In this unit children will have opportunities to use:

- words and phrases for making comparisons eg tall/shorter, like, similar to, different from
- words relating to plants eg branch, stem, root, stem, seeds, seedlings, plants, leaf, wood
- words and phrases relating to living and non living things eg living, non-living, alive, not alive, dead, healthy

RESOURCES

- potted seedlings or seeds
- small plants in pots or tubs or garden which will flower either during the winter or later in the year eg pea, broad bean, mung-bean, amaryllis, sunflower, marigold
- pot plant to be re-potted
- soil and containers for growing plants
- collection of pictures of plants of a variety of types
- large labelled plan (drawing of the school grounds)
- artificial plant

EXPECTATIONS

at the end of this unit

most children will:

name some common plants, identify the leaf, root, stem and flower of a plant; recognise that plants are living and need water and light to grow and recognise as they can investigate the conditions plants need for growth

some children will not have made so much progress and will

name some common plants, identify leaf, root, stem and flower and recognise that plants need water to grow

some children will have progressed further and will also:

describe differences between plants grown in the light and in the dark and suggest how to find out about what plants need in order to grow well