

Plant Parts



Age Group

Grades 3-5

Duration

30 mins

Materials Needed

Paper
Pencils
Art Supplies

Location

Indoors

Grade Standards

3 = Ecosystems;
Structures and
Functions of Living
Organisms

4 = Ecosystems

5 = Ecosystems,
Structures and
Functions of Living
Organisms

Additional Resources

Pair this lesson plan with the Dichotomous Key lesson to include a fun outdoor activity that combines both lesson topics!

Objectives

Students will be able to identify the parts of a plant (root, leaf, stem, flower) and describe how their functions help a plant live and grow.

Background

Plants need their roots, leaves, stems, and flowers in order to survive in their habitat. Just like we have bones to support our movement, a mouth to eat our food so we can grow, and a nose to breath in air, a plant needs its roots to absorb nutrients from the soil, its leaves to make its food so it can grow, its stem to keep it supported, and flowers to help it reproduce. We can easily see how plants rely on their parts to survive in their environment when we look at some of the following examples. Carnivorous plants grow in poor soil so they have adapted to eating bugs to gain their nutrients for growth. Plants that grow on rocky cliffs may be hundreds of years old but will be small and compact since they aren't able to get nutrients from the soil to grow big. A plant in a field will grow colorful or eye-catching flowers to stand out to pollinators like bees so they have a better chance to reproduce. Can your students think of some more examples of how plants use their parts to survive in their habitat?

Activity

- 1) Show the included image of a plant on page 2 and review what each part is (or go outside to review with a real plant). Then, discuss the function of each part and how they help the plant live and grow.
 - Roots - absorb nutrients from the soil so the plant can grow
 - Stem - provides support and structure
 - Leaves - synthesize food using energy from the sun
 - Flowers - attract pollinators like bees and butterflies and produces seeds all so it can reproduce to make more plants
- 2) Next, have students design their own plant. Have them think about where the plant would live, how it will get its nutrients or food, and how it will reproduce. They should include all four parts so as to show how the plant will live and function but they can be as creative as they want about how it looks and how many of each part their plant has.
- 3) Once, everyone is finished, have them introduce their plant to the group, making sure they identify the plant's habitat, how it gets its food, and how it will reproduce.

For more advanced students, introduce fruits, vegetables, and nuts as seeds and how they contribute to the plant's life cycle. This can be a fun add-in for when they create their own plant since they can show off what the baby plant would look like!

