3.1 Introducing growth

Topic: Plants
Subtopic: Growth
Activity type / skill: Orientation
Literacy focus: Vocabulary

Objective
- Provide orientation to the subtopic.
- Make links to prior knowledge.
- Link to the science curriculum.
- Introduce technical vocabulary.
- Present target vocabulary in context.

What you need
- Student worksheet (see next page)
- Audio track 3.1
- Plants vegetable cards

What to do
1. Look at the first two pages of the student worksheet. Talk about the pictures to draw out students' existing knowledge.

2. Play track 3.1 (Track 1 for this topic). Have students listen and look at the pictures and then talk about the text and pictures

3. Look at the third page of the student worksheet and talk about how a plant grows. Have students label the roots, soil, leaves, stems, flowers and seeds on the drawing of the dandelion.

4. Have students dig up a weed, preferably one with a flower, from the school grounds or bring one to school. Have students draw their weed and label it.

5. Working in pairs, take turns to describe the weed.

Extending the activity
- Cut out the coloured vegetable cards.
- Have students sort the cards into categories and justify their choices, for example:
  - plant parts (root, stem, leaf, flower)
  - plants we eat cooked/plants we eat raw
  - plants with names starting with the same letter
  - plants that are the same colour.
- Play card games with the vegetable cards regularly as you work through this topic.

Plants

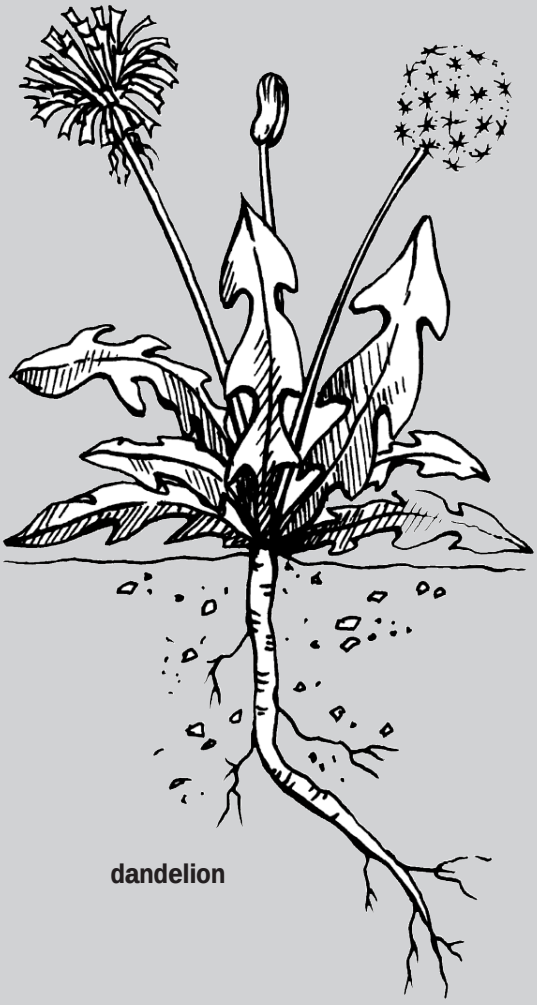
Track 1

What is a plant?

A plant is a living thing. It reproduces, grows and feeds. Plants need water, air and sunlight. They take energy from the sun to make food.

There are two main kinds of plants; flowering plants and non-flowering plants.

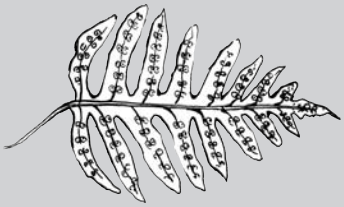
Flowering plants



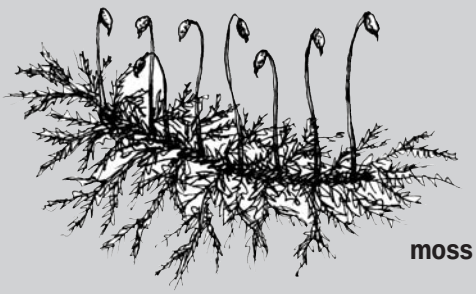
dandelion

Flowering plants have roots, stems, leaves, flowers and fruit.

Non-flowering plants



fern



moss

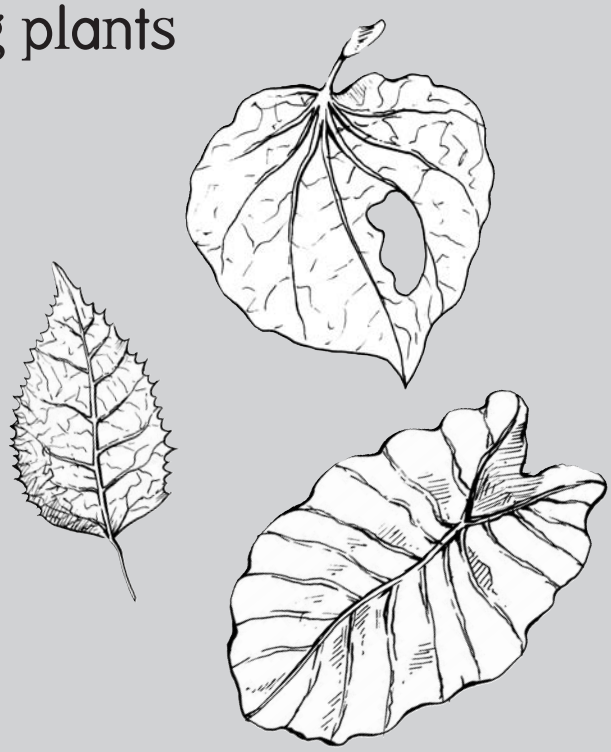
Non-flowering plants do not have flowers. They are plants like these.

The structure of flowering plants

Leaves

Leaves make food for the plant.
They use light, water and gases to make food.
This is called photosynthesis.
Plants turn their leaves towards the sun so they can get enough light for photosynthesis.

Leaves are different shapes and sizes.

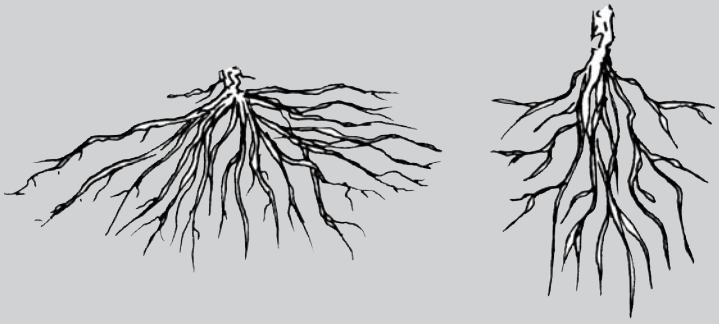


Stems and branches

Stems and branches hold up the leaves and other parts like flowers and fruit. Stems carry nutrients and water from the soil around the plant. The nutrients and water move up the plant in small tubes in the stem.

Roots

Roots hold the plants in the soil. The roots take water and nutrients from the soil.



Flowers

Flowering plants produce flowers so a new plant can grow. Flowers contain the male and female parts of plants. When flowers are pollinated, fruit and seeds are produced. Seeds grow into new plants. Plants need water and nutrients to grow.

How a plant grows