

Leafy Lessons– Grabbed by Germination and Growth

Season: All	Duration: 1– 1.5 hours	
<p>Overview: Get ‘grabbed’ by germination and growth with a session of informative games and discovery. Using our fun props, resources and real specimens from our nature reserve we find out: How do seeds grow into seedlings? What triggers germination in spring-time? What do plants need to grow? What is the basic structure of a plant and what job does each part do? How can we care for plants and help them grow? Children also plant some seeds to nurture.</p>		
<p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the process of seed germination and the environmental conditions that trigger this. • Knowledge of the general structure of a plant and the role of parts of the plant in plant growth, nutrition and lifecycle. 	<p>Key Vocabulary</p> <p>Germination Pollination Seed coat Seed leaves (cotyledons) Endosperm</p>	<p>(Adapt to suit key stage)</p> <p>Stem Seed Photosynthesis Chlorophyll Minerals Root</p>
<p>National Curriculum Links: KS1: Sc2: Life processes and living things: Life processes 1 c; Green Plansts: 3 a b + c; Living things in their environment: 5 a. KS2: Sc2: Life processes and living things: Life Processes: 1 b; Green Plants: 3 a b+c (Growth and Nutrition), 3d (Reproduction);</p>		
<p>Outline of Activities with approximate timings:</p> <p>Please note: We can tailor activities to suit the key stage of your class and time available.</p> <p>Introduction (15 minutes) Using a giant seed model and real specimens we discuss: What is a seed? What is inside a seed? How does a seed grow into a plant? What triggers seeds to germinate when they do?</p> <p>Germination Game (15 minutes) Children experience the challenge of developing from a seed into a plant in this active game: can they collect all of the things they need to germinate before being eaten?!</p> <p>Build a Plant (15 minutes) Using either a whole class ‘role-play’ game or team construction challenge, we assemble a plant and think about the role its structure plays in its growth, nutrition and lifecycle.</p> <p>Potty Planters (30 minutes) Use our fun paper potters to make recycled plant pots and plant seeds to nurture at school. Make a plant label detailing how to care for your plant and think about how it could enhance your school garden e.g. as a nectar source for butterflies/ bees etc.</p> <p>Plant ‘Splat’ Plenary (15minutes) A final fun team game (from the SAPS programme) to reinforce learning!</p>		

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Eco– Schools Links:

Curriculum-linked activities and practical action associated with biodiversity and school grounds could be used as evidence for an Eco Schools Award. For more information visit: <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

Suggested follow-up activities:

Continue to care for the seeds planted in your paper pot and plant the whole pot into the school garden when ready. Why not use the plants to encourage more wildlife into your school garden as part of a wildflower meadow or wild area? More information about creating a wildflower meadow can be found at http://www.plantlife.org.uk/things_to_do/grow_wild/wildmeadow/ or <http://www.growingschools.org.uk/Resources/Downloads/Final%20Wildflower%20garden.pdf> The book 'How to make a Wildlife Garden' by Chris Baines is also highly recommended.

The Science and Plants for Schools website (www.saps.org.uk) has lots of hints and tips for growing and studying plants in the classroom: <http://www.saps.org.uk/attachments/article/307/SAPS%20Parts%20of%20a%20plant%20-%20partB.pdf>

Go on a 'spring spotters' walk around your school grounds or local green-space and see how many signs of spring you can find. The nature detectives website has lots of spring-themed spotter sheets and activities: <http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/download/spring/>

Plantlife's Wild About Plants website also has lots of plant-themed activity ideas and resources: <http://www.wildaboutplants.org.uk/>