What you should know already

Plants are a large group of living things that use sunlight to make their own food.
There are many different kinds of plants including trees, vines and grasses.
Plants have different parts for example stems, leaves and roots.
Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter and evergreen trees keep their leaves all year round.

Key Vocabulary

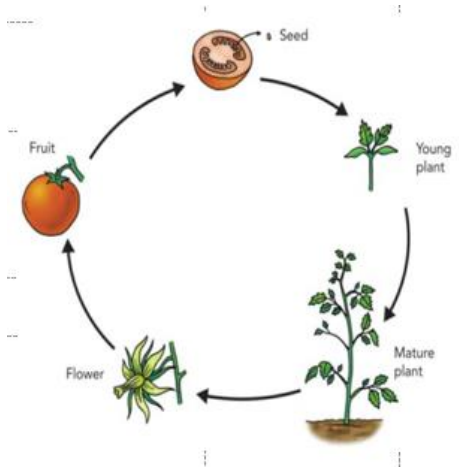
Bulb – a round part of some plants, which stores food underground. Daffodils and onions grow from bulbs.
Fertilisation – this happens inside the flower where the ovule and pollen meet to produce a seed.
Germination – when a plant starts to grow
Nutrients – a type of food for a plant found in the soil
Pollen – powder made by the flower. It is transported by insects and is necessary for new seeds to be produced.
Reproduction – the process where plants and animals make copies of themselves / produce young.
Seeds – these are made for plants to reproduce. They contain tiny versions of a plant, stored inside a hard outer casing.

Some key facts.

Many plants produce flowers with bright colours and / or strong scents because they help to attract insects such as bees and butterflies to the pollen inside.
Plants have roots which are tiny tubes that suck water and nutrients out of the soil and into the plant. They also help to hold the plant in place, stopping them being washed away by water or blown away by the wind.
Some seeds are blown in the wind, others are dispersed by the seed pod bursting open, flinging the seeds away from the plant. Animals can carry seeds on their fur or dropping them on the ground after eating them. Some seeds float on water.

Plants Year 2

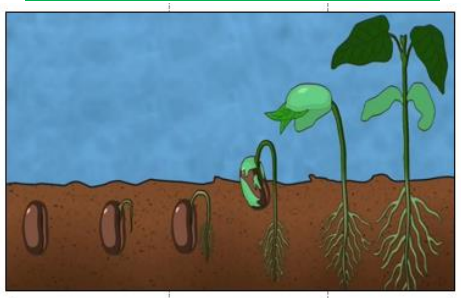
Life cycle of a plant

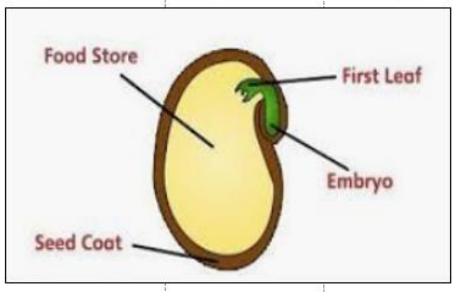


Plants begin life as seeds or bulbs. They grow into young plants known as seedlings. In order to grow into healthy plants they need the right conditions to grow. These are, light, temperature, water, space and time. Plants grow flowers and fruits which produce seeds. When the plant dies or is pollinated the seeds find their way back to the soil, where the cycle starts all over again.

Seeds come in all shapes, sizes and colours

Growth from seeds / bulbs





Seeds and bulbs do not require sunlight to grow. They have their own food store inside them. However they do need the right conditions to grow.

What plants need in order to grow

Plants need water which they get through their roots from the soil. Some plants also catch water on their leaves.

Plants need sunlight in order for them to grow. They use sunlight to make their own food. Too little light will leave them weak.

Plants need the right temperature to grow properly. If it is too hot they may burn and if it is too cold they may freeze and die.

Plants need room for their roots and stems to grow. They also need time – it can take days, months or even years for them to grow.

Scientific Skills

- ask relevant questions and use different types of scientific enquiries to answer them
- set up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests
- make systematic and careful observations and where appropriate take accurate measurements using standard units
- gather, record, classify and present data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions
- record findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables
- identify differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes

At the end of this unit I will;

- be able to describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants
- be able to describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.
- know how some seeds are dispersed
- be able to describe the life cycle of a plant