

Plants – Why do we need plants?

Name _____

Class _____

What you will need for this lesson: toothpicks or kebab skewers, a sweet potato or another vegetable like a potato or a carrot, a large plastic cup and some water.

Remember to always ask an adult to help you find these items and to help you carry out the investigation!

Lesson starter

Which of these are vegetables and which are fruit?

Think about how you could show which group these pictures belong to, for example, you could use one colour pen to draw a circle the vegetables and another colour pen to show the fruit.



tomato



watermelon



lemon



chilli



avocado



apple



corn



strawberry



pineapple



pear



melon



turnip



potato



pepper



peas



cherry



banana



eggplant



garlic



orange



grapes



mushrooms



broccoli



raspberry



carrot

The Investigation

You are going to see how some vegetables can grow into a plant!

Remember you will need: toothpicks or kebab skewers, a sweet potato or another vegetable like a potato or a carrot, a large plastic cup and some water.

YOU SHOULD ASK AN ADULT TO HELP YOU DO THIS!

What you need to do first (the method):



- Put your vegetable in the cup
- Take your tooth picks or kebab skewers and push them into the vegetable so that when they are all in, the vegetable balances on the side of the cup. Try to keep the vegetable from touching the bottom of the cup
- Now pour water in the cup so that the bottom part of the vegetable is covered.
- The vegetable should start to grow some new roots from the part of the vegetable that is covered in the water. The first roots should begin to appear a week or so after you set it up.
- In the table below write in what you can see happening each day after the roots begin to appear. If you have a magnifying glass, use it to have a very close look but if not just use your eyes!

How many days after you set it up?	What can you see?	How has it changed since last time?

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Remember to be very careful when you are investigating the vegetable. The toothpicks are sharp, and you need to keep them well away from your eyes!

What do we use plants for?

Plants grow all around us. Think of all the plants in your garden or any you see on the way to school.

Make a list below what you think we use plants for:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Here are some clues to help you!



When you've finished, carry on watching the video to see whether you got all of them!

Your Challenge!

Which plants grow close to your home? Take a look around your garden, in a nearby park or on your street and make a tally chart of all the ones you can see!

The type of plant	Count the number of each type of plant you see Tally
Tree	
Flower plant	
Vegetable	
Fruit plant	

We hope you enjoyed this science lesson!