

Plants: Observing Plants

Aim: To observe closely using simple equipment by recording observations of a variety of plants in the local environment. I can look closely at plants and trees and record what I see.	Success Criteria: I can look closely at plants and trees. I can record what I see by writing, drawing and measuring. I can label the main parts of plants and trees.	Resources: Lesson Pack Magnifying glasses Tape measures Rulers Clipboard - 1 per child A4 paper - as required Pencils Coloured pencils Crayons
	Key/New Words: Roots, stem, leaves, flower, trunk, branches, observation, diagram.	Preparation: Flowering Plant Observation Activity Sheet - 1 per child Differentiated Tree Observation Activity Sheet - 1 per child Prepare the Parts of a Flowering Plant Activity Sheet and Parts of a Tree Activity Sheet by cutting them into pieces for reassembly - 1 sheet per group. Make preparations for an outside walk to a local park or woodland.

Prior Learning: It will be helpful if children have previous experience of the basic structure of plants and trees.

Learning Sequence

	Plants: Introduce the topic. Using the Lesson Presentation , show the children pictures of common wild and garden plants and trees. As a class, invite children to identify the plants if they can before revealing the names.	
	Parts of a Flowering Plant: Split children into mixed ability groups of 3. Give each group a Parts of a Flowering Plant Activity Sheet which has been pre-cut into pieces. Children have one minute to reassemble the picture of the plant and to label the parts. Use the Lesson Presentation to check answers and address misconceptions.	
	Parts of a Tree: Repeat the previous activity using the Parts of a Tree Activity Sheet .	
	Observing Plants: In a suitable outdoor location, provide children with magnifying glasses and encourage them to closely study flowering plants and trees. Children complete the Observing Flowering Plants Activity Sheet by drawing a labelled diagram of a plant and writing a description. Children also complete the differentiated Observing Trees Activity Sheet by drawing a labelled diagram of a tree and a detailed picture of a leaf from the tree. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Children make a bark rubbing of the trunk of their chosen tree. </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Children measure and record the length and width of the leaf with a ruler. </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Children take more detailed measurements with a ruler and a tape measure. </div> </div>	
	What Did We See? Children discuss their observations with a partner.	

Taskit

Researchit: Give children the opportunity to research their flowers and trees in books or on the internet, finding out what they are called and interesting facts about them.

Observeit: Complete a detailed leaf study. Collect a variety of leaves and observe them carefully with magnifying glasses, building up a class word bank of descriptive terms. Each child can then complete an observational drawing and detailed written description of one leaf. This makes a beautiful display.

Magnifyit: Look at different leaves under a microscope. Compare and contrast the different cells and tissues.