

Learning Objectives

- 1) Know the parts of a plant and the functions they serve:
 - a) **Roots:** The root is the part of the plant that is in the ground. Roots, both secure plants to the ground and bring water and nutrients to their other parts. Some plants have small roots that spread in different directions and others have a single long root called a taproot. All roots soak up water and nutrients and carry them to the stem.
 - b) **Stem:** A plant's stem extends from the ground, supporting the other parts in the sunlight. Stems also serve to transport water and nutrients from the roots to other parts. The stem of a tree is called a trunk.
 - c) **Leaves:** Leaves are the parts of plants that grow from the stem. Through photosynthesis, leaves make food for the plant in the form of sugar:
 - i) **Photosynthesis:** The green chlorophyll from the leaves absorbs sunlight, air, and water to produce sugar, oxygen, and water.
 - d) **Flowers:** Flowers are the reproductive part of a plant. They make fruit and seeds.
 - e) **Fruit:** The part of the plant that contains the seeds is the fruit. Apples are a fruit that comes from an apple tree.
 - f) **Seeds:** Inside the fruit of most plants there are seeds. They come in a variety of sizes and colors and have a hard protective

covering called the seed coat. When seeds enter the ground and are watered, they begin to grow a new plant, which resembles the one it came from.

- 2) Understand that people eat many plant parts everyday. We eat seeds, like rice and nuts; roots, like carrots, and beets; Stems, such as asparagus and celery; leaves, like lettuce and spinach; flowers, such as broccoli and artichokes; and of course, fruits, like apples, and pears.

Suggested Activities

- 1) **Plant a seed:** Have each student plant a seed in a clear, plastic cup. Make sure that the seeds get plenty of sunlight and that the soil stays moist. Check on the seeds every one or two days to see what is happening. Students will enjoy raising a seed and will get to see how the seed opens up and becomes a plant.
- 2) **Fruit Stand:** Have each student bring in a piece of fruit. The teacher should bring in a couple of pieces of unique fruit. Cut the fruit open to reveal its seeds. Talk about from where the fruit came, on what kind of plant it might have grown, and how it developed.

Vocabulary

Chlorophyll — the green coloring in leaves, which performs photosynthesis

Mineral — a naturally occurring substance taken from the ground

Nutrients — substances that are useful to an organism

Petal — any of the usually brightly colored parts of a plant that together make up the flower

Seedling — a young plant grown from a seed

Soil — the upper layer of earth in which plants grow

