PLANT A PLANT PERSON

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About the Activity

Learn about the basic parts and needs of plants while you create your very own plant person. Once you learn how to take care of a plant’s basic needs, you can grow so much!

This activity is part of our 4-H At-Home Garden Series. See the rest of the activities here.

Supplies

These simple supplies are all you’ll need for this activity. Some of these, like the seeds, you may need to find at a plant store:

• Small cup (cup, yogurt container, water bottle, etc)
• Knee-high tights
• Fescue grass seeds
• Soil
• Scissors
• Glue
• Crafts for decoration (googly eyes, feathers, pipe cleaners, etc)
• Sunlight
• Water

Grades: 3-8

Topic: STEM, Biology

Time: 30 minutes
Activity Steps

Plant a Plant Person –

1. Line the small cup with the closed end of the knee-high tights tucked inside. Pour two tablespoons of fescue grass seeds inside so that it settles to the toe of the tights.

DID YOU KNOW? A plant has many different parts that work together, just as a person’s body parts work together

• The plant roots carry water and nutrients to the plant
• The stem supports and carries water and food throughout the plant.
• Leaves use sunlight to make food for the plant.
• Flowers are usually the bright, colorful part of the plant; when they are pollinated by insects or wind, they produce seeds, which are sometimes stored in fruit.
• A seed can make a new plant.

2. Pour soil into the tights on top of the seeds; fill to match the depth of the cup. Press lightly and tight a knot in the tights. Cut off any excess material you may have.

DID YOU KNOW? You can memorize the six basic needs of a plant by using the acronym, P.L.A.N.T.S.

• Place (in a container or a garden)
• Light (Sun or artificial light)
• Air (Oxygen and Carbon Dioxide)
• Nutrients (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium)
• Thirsty (Water)
• Soil (to grow roots in)

3. Flip over the filled tights, so the grass seeds are facing up. Decorate your “Plant Person” with any crafts you may have. Glue on some googly eyes, add some arms and a nose… have fun with it!

DID YOU KNOW? Plants can grow in many spaces – in the ground, a pot and even a crack in the sidewalk.

4. After the glue is dry, water the grass and soil. Make sure to place it under sunlight and continue to water it frequently so the soil stays moist. In 5-7 days, the seeds will grow from the end to form the hair of the plant person.

DID YOU KNOW? There are more nearly 400,000 species of living plants across the entire globe, and even some that grow in Antarctica! Scientists look at different plant parts, such as flowers, leaves, stems and fruits, and group together the plants that are similar – this is called classification, and without a classification system, identifying all of those plants in the world would be pretty difficult.

5. Enjoy your “Plant Person!” As the grass grows you can even trim it to give your plant person a haircut!

DID YOU KNOW? Plants need sunlight to make food. They make their own food in a process called photosynthesis, which happens mainly in the leaves. Plants combine carbon dioxide from the air, green pigment (chlorophyll) from the leaves, and sunlight to produce food. When plants make their own food through photosynthesis, they give off oxygen, which people need to breathe.
Test Your Knowledge

See how much you’ve learned about plants!

QUESTION 1
What do leaves do for a plant?
- a. Collect water for the plant.
- b. Make food for the plant using a process called photosynthesis.
- d. All of the above

QUESTION 2
What are the 6 basic needs of a plant?
- a. A place, light, air, nutrients, water, soil
- b. Water, light, wind, soil, medicine, music
- c. Bugs, water, light, soil, a place, clouds

QUESTION 3
Where can a plant NOT grow?
- a. In a pot
- b. In a crack of a sidewalk
- c. In the sky

QUESTION 4
How many different species of plants are there in the world?
- a. Over 1,000
- b. Nearly 400,000
- c. Over a million

QUESTION 5
What is the process called where plants make their own food?
- a. Radiation
- b. Photosynthesis
- c. Crossfit

Reflection Questions

Bonus questions to inspire wonder:
- Why is it important to classify plants?
- Why do we need plants in this world?
- How are plants and humans alike? What basic needs do they need?
Investigate & Explore
Take your new knowledge to the next level.

Plants are a vital part of Planet Earth. They are the beginning of the food chain, providing food for both animals and people. They also make the world beautiful: Trees give shade during the summer and protect us from the wind in winter; shrubs, vines and flowers beautify our homes and provide a place for wildlife, like birds and insects to live. Plants are also used to make clothing, medicine and shelter for people. They also enhance the very air we breathe by providing the oxygen our bodies need. Look around your house and see how many things around you are made out of plants. Take a walk outside and see all the different plants that grow, and the different places they can thrive!

Brought to you by:

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