

Colour-changing flowers

This activity can be used in the Year 3 Plant topic as an observation over time.



National Curriculum Statement

- investigate the way in which water is transported within plants

Working Scientifically

- ask relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them
- set up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests
- make systematic and careful observations

Vocabulary

Observe, test, predict, flower, root, transport, results, measure.

Resources

- White flowers
- Chinese lettuce
- Celery
- food colouring
- jars
- water
- scissors

Activity

Fill six jars or glasses with water and add several drops of different food colouring to each glass. Take six white flowers (daisies, roses, lilies or carnations) and cut the stem so they fit into the jar. A fresh cut also allows them to absorb the coloured water more quickly.

Add one flower to each jar.

Ask the pupils to observe the flowers and predict what will happen.

Place the flowers on a sunny windowsill.

Ask the pupils to observe the flowers every day, recording any changes.

Be prepared to wait for up to two weeks to see the flowers change colour.

Key Questions

What will happen to the white flower when it is left in coloured water?

Which colour will work the best?

Why does the flower change colour?

Do different flowers change colour at different speeds?

Does the type of food colouring we use affect the time it takes for the flower to change colour?

If we use warm water, will the flower change colour more quickly?

Can vegetables change colour if they are left in coloured water?

Can we draw a graph to show our results?

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