



Plants and their Life Cycle



Our next Science topic is looking at the life cycles of different **organisms** (living things) and looking at how they differ. It is called a life **cycle** because it is a set of changes that an organism experiences including reproduction, where the offspring (children) also go through these changes – so the cycle continues. You have already looked at plants in previous years and we have started to look at their life cycles – remember the mystery seeds A, B and C we planted in February? Hopefully these will come to *fruition* shortly!

Parts of a plant

Before we look at their life cycles, it's important that we know and can find the main parts of a plant. Use these links below to find out about them. These will help you complete your labelling tasks on Purple Mash.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpxnyrd/articles/z3wpsbk>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/science-ks1-ks2-ivys-plant-workshop-parts-of-a-plant/zvdkpg8>

Super Scientist Challenge: Why are each of these parts important? What is their function/role?

Key Vocabulary

Some words that appear on this page or you may want to include in your work:

asexual reproduction	One parent is needed to create offspring. The offspring is an exact copy (clone).
fertilise	The fusing of the male and female sex cells to create an egg.
life cycle	The steps of changes that take place throughout the life of an organism including birth, growing up and reproduction.
pollination	The transfer of pollen to a stigma to allow fertilisation.
reproduction	The process of new organisms being made.
sexual reproduction	Two parents are needed to make offspring. The offspring are similar but not identical to either parent.

Plant Life Cycle Comic Strip

You have been asked to create a comic strip for the life cycles of a plant. This link gives you some ideas on how to set up a comic strip that you could print or use to draw your own template.

<https://mrshooverblog.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/comic-templates.pdf>

Plants in more detail

These links provide more information about the parts of the flower (**anatomy**), pollination and how it works:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/science-ks1-ks2-ivys-plant-workshop-the-anatomy-of-the-flower/zjmhkmn>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djPVgip_bdU

Pollination

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/science-ks1-ks2-ivys-plant-workshop-what-is-pollination-and-how-does-it-work/zv4df4j>

Once you have watched these, if there are any flowers at home that your adults don't mind you having, why don't you dissect the flower and see if you can spot the different parts in real life?

These will help you when completing the labelling activity on Purple Mash.

Super Scientist Challenge: Create a guide about the different parts of a flower, e.g. stigma, sepal, to explain their job / function. You could create a table, draw a diagram and label it – the choice is up to you!

What steps are involved in a plants life cycle?

Some living things, such as plants, contain both the male AND female sex cells needed for reproduction. For most other organisms, they contain either the male OR female sex cells. This makes plants slightly different to other organisms as they can produce offspring which are similar but not identical to the parent plant (through sexual reproduction) or produce exact copies of the parent (like a clone) through asexual reproduction.

Use these links to find out about the main stages in a plant's life cycle:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpxnyrd/articles/z2vdjxs>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zgssgk7/articles/zyv3jty>

<https://science4fun.info/life-cycle-of-plants/>

Complete the quizzes / interactive games at the bottom of the BBC pages to test your understanding before moving onto the tasks on your Unexpected Adventure Trail.