Adventures in the Plant Kingdom (Level 3)

Description	Learners will explore the plant kingdom and learn about the importance of plants in our lives through different experiments and activities that will illustrate how plants behave and some of their characteristics.
Leading Question	Can you design your own plant?
Total Time Required	7 hours over 5 days
Supplies Required	Pen/pencil, paper, color pencils/crayons, scissors, 6 plastic bottles or 3 plastic bottles and 3 paper cups/small lightweight bowls, plant with roots, soil, leaves, water, string/thread, jar, seed, paper towels, and food coloring (optional)
Learning Outcomes	 Understanding the different parts of a plant and listing some of their functions compared to human body parts Understanding the general life cycle of a plant Understanding some of the uses of plants in daily life Understanding of the role of osmosis in transport in plants Understanding of the role of plants in desertification
Previous Learning	None.

Day 1

Today you will begin by understanding the characteristics of living things and how plants adapt to their environment.

Suggested	Activity and Description
Duration	



	I		
10 minutes	nonliving thing - Write or draw and non-living: book - Learners can book that plants are	e given prompts to encourag living things. For example, p and ask the learner whether	orhood. ing things. Living: dog; e them to understand oint to a houseplant,
20 minutes	 List a few differences between living and nonliving things Explain that everything in life can be classified as living and nonliving, and that that living things fall into either the animal kingdom (Kingdom Animalia) or the plant kingdom (Kingdom Plantae) and have certain characteristics: 		
	- They move - They breathe - They are sens around them - They grow - They reproduct - They eat - They get rid o		ond to changes
20 minutes	 Create the following table in your notebooks and give examples of how living things demonstrate all these characteristics from both plantae and animalia. 		
	Characteristic	Kingdom Plantae example	Kingdom Animalia example
	Moving	e.g. sunflowers moving with the sun	human walking
	Breathing	e.g. tree leaves breathing	dog breathing
	and list or drav	or different plants adapted to be some examples of these. hink helps plants survive in depose	

	need less water t they do get for la - You can compare environments. Fo harsh desert clim - There are many of some plants attra reproduce) throu	nts that grow in harsh climate to survive because they store to ter use. It to how different animals actor example, camels store water attention in high their scent. Others like the there aren't enough nutrients	dapt to their or to cope with the car cactus does! cure. For example, helps them
20 minutes	 Draw some plants you are familiar with from your own surroundings, as well as examples of other plants that grow in at least 3 other different environments. See appendix 1 for examples of some adaptations and then identify and draw the plants that have these adaptations. 		
	Plant	Environment	Adaptation
	shutterstock.com - 207456544	© dream/sinecom	Can store water
15 minutes	 Numeracy activities: A furniture factory cuts down 3 trees per month and plants 5 in the same forest. If the forest had 100 trees at the beginning of January, how many trees will it have by the end of that month? If you have \$40 and flowers cost \$2.5 each, how many flowers can you buy for your mother? Advanced option: Mariam wants to make a wooden pot for her plants that is 30 cm³. If she makes the height 5 cm and the 		

length 2 cm, how wide should she make her pot? (hint: volume

of a rectangular prism is length x width x height. Here, the



volume is 30 cubic centimeters and you are given the height and length. Find the width using the formula volume = $I \times W \times H$

Day 2

Today you will identify the main parts of a plant and understand their functions..

Suggested Duration	Activity and Description	
20 minutes	 Look for a plant outside or inside your home and pull it or raise it gently so that they can return it to the soil after the activity. They will identify the roots, stem, leaves, flower, and fruit. Explain that roots anchor the plant, which is why we cannot just pick plants easily. This protects plants from flying away by strong winds. They also collect water and nutrients from the soil. The stem is responsible for transporting nutrients collected by the roots upward to the rest of the plant. The leaves are responsible for respiration or breathing. Many plants bear flowers and fruits. If no plant is available, they can draw a flower, small plant or tree and label each part. 	
	flower fruit leaf roots	
	Source: https://www.greenandvibrant.com/parts-of-a-plant	

15 minutes

- Explore the functions of each part. Reflect on how plants, like all living things, eat and breathe.
- How do you think plants eat? Breathe? What parts do you think help them do these things?
- Plants need sunlight and water to live and eat. They use the sun's energy to make their own food, but they also eat through their roots and stem! Do the following experiment to see how plant roots absorb water:
 - Place 3 clear plastic or glass cups next to each other in a line
 - Add water to the first and last cup, leaving the middle cup empty
 - Bring two long pieces of paper towels and twist them to create a long thick piece
 - Place one end of the first paper towel in the first cup and the other end in the center cup. Do the same for the other paper towel so that the center cup has two ends of both pieces of paper towels. Your setup should look like the following:



- If you have different food coloring or colored liquids, you can pour them in the first and last cup to see a cool color change effect in the end result. You can also color or paint the two paper towels blue and yellow to see how the colors mix.
- Wait for 3 hours then come back to it. What do you think will happen?
- You will observe that the center cup has filled up with water from the other cups! This is how plant roots collect nutrients from the soil and deliver it to the plant for the stem to then take it upward.



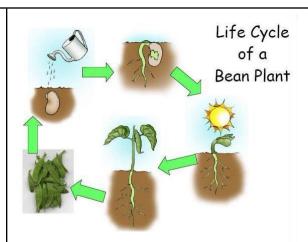
	1
10 minutes	 Think of the stability function of a root and how it allows the plant to stay firm in the ground. Draw a tree and cut it out. Then try to make it stand Notice that the tree falls because there is nothing attaching it to the ground. If you tape a toothpick or small stick behind it and then stick it in a cardboard or piece of paper, it will stand. This is what roots allow plants to do. This protects plans from flying away in the wind!
10 minutes	Do an experiment to observe how the stem transports water and nutrients upward: - Place a lettuce leaf in a cup filled with colored liquid like orange juice (or add food coloring or powders like beetroot, paprika etc. to water). - Observe how the leaf turns into the color of the liquid after 2-3 hours. - Learners can try to provide their own explanation for why we observe this change – how does the stem transport nutrients to the rest of the plant? - If possible, explain that this is possible because of the xylem and phloem cells within the stem of a flowering plant, which are like tubes that transport moisture and nutrients from the root upward to the rest of the plant.
15 minutes	 Plants breathe through their leaves. Do an experiment to observe plant respiration or breathing and waste removal: Place 2-3 fresh leaves of any plant in a glass bowl, preferably shallow Add lukewarm or hot water to the bowl and submerge the leaves just below the surface. Make sure they stay in this position Wait for 2-3 hours then come back to it. What happened? You should see small bubbles forming on top of the leaves. They might be too small, so get closer to the leaves. The bubbles indicate that plants produced oxygen from breathing.

	understandin - If possible, expores on the responsible for carbon dioxide bubbles) as a • The experiment a make their food dioxide, water, and	g for what they observe splain that there are sma surface of leaves called or regulating gas exchan le and release oxygen (s "waste" byproduct of p also demonstrates the p	the stomata. These are ge in plants. They take in een in the experiment as hotosynthesis rocess by which plants here they take in carbon ose and oxygen. The
10 minutes	 Optional: Draw a diagram of photosynthesis in nature showing the natural sources of light, water, and carbon dioxide and writing and equation that shows that carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O) give glucose (C₆H₁₂O₆) and oxygen (O₂). 		
10 minutes	Write down some of the functions of different plant parts and compare them to human body parts responsible for those functions.		
	Function	Plant parts	Human body part
	e.g Breathing	Leaves, stomata	Lungs, nose
15 minutes	 Write a paragraph on the following prompt in the first person: "Imagine you are a plant that grows in a forest or jungle/rainforest. Describe what you might look like and what each one of your parts might be doing to protect you on a particularly rainy day." 		

Day 3

Today you will be introduced to plant life cycles and understand some of the uses of plants for humans.

Suggested Duration	Activity and Description	
20 minutes	 Imagine what the life cycle of a plant looks like. Prompts: Where do plants come from? How do we grow plants, for example, a flower? After a plant grows out of the soil, what happens to it? How long does it stay in that form? How does a plant change with time? Explain that plants start out as seeds, then grow to plants gradually over time, and then they wilt or die. We call the process of plants growing from seeds germination or sprouting. The life cycle of a flower is as follows: seed -> root comes out of seed -> seedling grows out of the ground -> stem and leaves grow -> flowers grow -> flowers make fruits/vegetables and seeds 	
20 minutes	 Create a labeled plant life cycle from seed to plant: Draw the stages of plant life for a flower – 1. seed, 2. rooting seed, 3. small plant with leaves, 4. adult plant with flowers and fruit/vegetables Color and cut out these drawings using a pair of scissors Draw four big boxes and label them 1-4. These should be big enough to put the drawings inside Decide which drawing should go on each box. The box labeled 1 should have the seed drawing inside because that is the first stage in a flower's life cycle. Continue placing the other drawings in the other boxes. You can glue, tape, or staple them in the boxes Next to each box, write a sentence about this stage of a plant's life 	



Source:

https://www.tes.com/lessons/RabEFf WxRBnw/life-cycle-of-a-bean

20 minutes

Present your labeled plant life cycle to family members/class for feedback. Feedback will include:

- What they loved about about it
- What could be improved
- Any other suggestions for improvement

Use the feedback to revise your labeled plant life cycle.

Observe the life cycle of a plant firsthand! Try to grow your own plants by sprouting pea or bean seeds in a jar and observe growth over 2 weeks.

- Bring a glass jar, some paper towels/cotton, water and a seed of a plant like mung, beans or peas
- Fill the jar with wet paper towels or tissue paper but make sure that the jar itself is not filled with too much water
- Push the seeds down between the tissues and bring it to the side of the jar so you can have a clear view of how it grows
- What do you think will happen? Observe how after two weeks, roots start to come out and how the seeds grow into a plant!
- Create a table and enter your daily observations on how you see the seed changing.
- Learners can experiment with 3 different set ups to see what plants need to grow. They will create the same set up in a different jar and in another jar, they will place dry paper towels so that they have 3 separate jars. They will then place one of the jars with wet paper towels and the jar with dry paper towels



	in the sun or next to a source of light, and leave one of the jars with wet paper towels in a dark place. Learners will check back in 1-2 weeks to see the progress of the seeds. They will find that the jar with water which was placed in the sun/light was the only one that grew a sprout, which means that water and light are necessary for plant growth. - Write a paragraph about what plants need to grow Source:
	https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/seed-jar-science-experiment-kids/
20 minutes	Think of some of the uses of plants in our lives. Write a paragraph of poem about how plants are used in daily lives – from when we wake up to when we go to bed. Walk around the house for inspiration and use the help of an adult in understanding the different ways we use plants. Some of the many uses of plants are:
	 Breathing – plants make the air we breathe! Eating – we eat fruits and vegetables, which are plants Clothing – cotton in our clothes comes from plants

Day 4

Today you will learn about desertification and the role of plants in protecting the soil.

Suggested	Activity and Description
Duration	
10 minutes	Did you know that green areas of land can turn into deserts? Why do you think that happens?

	Desertification is the loss of green areas of land and expansion of desert area. Many factors contribute to desertification including overgrazing (when animals eat all the plants), droughts, and deforestation (when plants are cut in forests without replacing them). When these things happen, a natural process called soil erosion is accelerated. Soil erosion is the removal of the top layer of the soil.
10 minutes	What do you think are some causes of soil erosion? Think of the different ways soil erodes naturally and write a list of 3-5 points. For example, soil drifting with rain, human cutting trees (deforestation), etc.
30 minutes	 Do an experiment to demonstrate deforestation and soil erosion: What do you think will happen if you cut the side of three large plastic bottles vertically leaving the neck intact so that the bottles can serve as a horizontal container Cut three smaller water bottles horizontally and set aside their bottom half or use three small lightweight plastic bowls or paper/plastic cups. Tape, staple or tie a string so that these pieces can be held like small buckets Place the large bottles that were cut open horizontally on a table with the cut side facing up and fill the first and second one with soil. Add a thick layer of dead or fresh leaves to one of these bottles and leave the other one with just soil. Place a plant with its soil in the last bottle. You can use a home potted plant or take a plant from outside your house making sure that you do not pull it by the root and make sure to take part of its soil with it Now you should have three large bottles cut open from one side with only soil in one bottle, soil and leaves in another bottle, and a plant with its roots and some soil in the last. Hang the small bowls or buckets by their string from the neck of each bottle as shown below Then we pour water in each of these bottles? What do you think will come out? Write your guesses down. Pour water from a container into each bottle and watch what comes out into the little buckets. Write your observations in your notebook and compare them to your guesses.

- You will notice that the water from the first bottle is filled with soil, while that from the one with leaves has very little soil, and the one with plants is clear!
- Why do you think this happened? This is because plant roots hold and protect the soil from erosion. Do you see how the roots are entangled in the soil when you lift the plant up?
 When desertification happens, soil erosion happens at a very fast rate because plants are not there to protect it!



Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=im4HVXMGI68

• Note: Simplify this activity by placing a potted plant or rooted plant with soil in a container temporarily and poking a hole in the container. Then pour water through the container to see how clear water comes out, which indicates that roots hold the soil together and do not allow water to wash it away. Compare this with a container that has only soil and notice how a lot of the soil comes out with the water, which is similar to how soil erosion through rainfall occurs.

Draw a before and after image of a forest where desertification has occurred. Also write a paragraph about what should be done to reverse the damage to this area. For example, planting more trees.

Share what you think should be done to reverse the damage due to desertification with family members/class for feedback and additional input.



20 minutes	Draw a before and after image of a forest where desertification has occurred. Also write a paragraph about what should be done to reverse the damage to this area. For example, planting more trees.
	Share what you think should be done to reverse the damage due to desertification with family members/class for feedback and additional input.

Day 5

Today you will learn about how plant cells absorb water through osmosis and explore the phenomenon of desertification through two cool experiments.

Suggested Duration	Activity and Description
40 minutes	 Conduct the following experiment to learn about the mechanism that allows plant roots to absorb water from the soil – osmosis. Definition: Osmosis is the movement of water from a region of high concentration to a region of low concentration through a semipermeable membrane (surface or material that is somewhat porous, but not totally porous). Keep in mind that "High water concentration" refers to how much of the liquid is pure water. Saltwater has lower concentration of water compared to pure/distilled water because some part of it is salt and the other is water. The outer layer of potato pieces will serve as our semi permeable membrane. Peel and cut a potato into 8 strips of identical size and weight almost the size of French fries (6 cm long). Measure them using a ruler to make sure they are all the same length and width. Prepare 4 solutions: i) a bowl with water with no salt; ii) using one gram of salt (1/4th of a teaspoon) and 100 ml of water (1 tablespoon short of half a cup); iii) 3 grams of salt for 100 ml of water (if learners do

not have the ability to measure, they can just prepare	one cup
of water with a tiny pinch of salt and the second will	have two
pinches of salt and the third will have three pinches of	of salt)

- Place two potato strips into each solution and two in a container with just water
- Let the potato strips sit for 20-30 minutes. What do you think will happen? Write down your hypothesis.
- Create the following table to record your observations:

Salt concentration	Initial length	Final length	Differenc e	% change
0 grams	6 cm			
1 gram	6 cm			
3 grams	6 cm			
5 grams	6 cm			

- Expected result: water moves from a place of high concentration to one with lower water concentration. Therefore, you can expect to find that in solutions with low salt concentration (and therefore higher water concentration), there is more water OUTSIDE of the potato, so water will move inside the potato by osmosis and increase the size of the strips, which will swell up. In solutions with high salt concentration and less water concentration, the opposite is true. There is more water INSIDE the potato than in the salt solution outside of it (because some of the saltwater molecules are occupied by salt it is not pure water), so water will move out of the potato, resulting in the shrinking of the size of the strips.
- To calculate the percentage change:

(final length - initial length) * 100 initial length

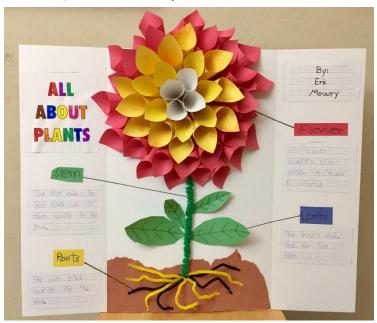
10 minutes

- Create a typical plant like a flower or design your own plant. Draw a few flowers you like, then think about how to design your own flower. For the plant, think of the following:
 - A creative name for their plant

- How the plant eats
- Whether the plant has a flower or just leaves
- The colors of each part
- The kind of environment or country the plant grows in

20-30 minutes

 Draw and color the plant or create a 3D models such as the following, making sure that each part of the plant is labeled (flower, stem, leaves and root):

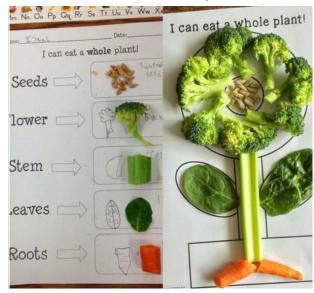


Source: https://www.pinterest.com/pin/348395721166351529/

30 minutes

- Optional: did you know that some of the fruits and vegetables we
 eat come from different parts of plant? Carrots are actually roots
 and grow under the ground! Create an edible flower model with
 the help of an adult to show we eat different parts of plants. Look
 in the kitchen for examples of vegetables and fruits that come from
 different parts of plants or they can purchase some of these next
 time they go grocery shopping. Suggestions:
 - Flower: broccoli, cauliflower, artichoke, strawberries
 - Stem: celery, asparagus, spring onions
 - Leaves: spinach, lettuce, kale, rocca/arugula
 - Root: sweet potatoes, carrots, ginger, beetroot
- Draw an outline of a flower and ask an adult to cut the vegetables and fruits into small parts so they can be placed on the outline as

shown below. Include seeds such as pumpkin seeds, pistachios, walnuts or cashew nuts if you wish:



Source : https://www.pinterest.com/pin/27232772726599701/

10 minutes

Present your model(s) with your families and guiz them on plant facts!

Family feedback will include:

- What they loved about about the plant model?
- What could be improved?
- Any other suggestions for improvement

Use the feedback to revise your plant model.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Perseverance, critical thinking and precision in conduction experiments.
- Accurately labeled plant parts figure.
- Accurate and creative photosynthesis diagram.
- Accurately labeled plant life cycle figure.
- Critical thinking in identifying plant uses in daily life.
- Creative and labeled 3D or 2D plant model.

ADDITIONAL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Learners can observe the cycle of reproduction of flowering plants by cutting open a selection of fruits and examining the seeds. They can also plant seeds and observe their germination and growth.
- Learners can calculate the average change in size from the potato strip osmosis
 experiment and present it in a graph. They can take the average of the two stirps per
 container.
- Learners can write a paragraph about what would happen if they drank a gallon of seawater or saltwater using their knowledge of osmosis.

MODIFICATIONS FOR SIMPLIFICATION

• Learners can focus on writing one essay containing a labeled figure of plant parts, the functions of all these parts and some different uses humans have for plants.

APPENDIX



Source: https://sites.google.com/site/plantadaptations2ndgrade/



Plant Adaptation Matching

A. Lives in hot deserts & stores water in its stem.

B. Lives in areas where there is a lot of rainfall. Leaves are large to Collect sunlight and have a waxy layer (CutiCle) to help water DriP off leaves.

C. Lives in winby areas. Stems are soft so they can Bend and not Break.

P. Lives in areas with Different seasons. Some trees lose their leaves in the fall/winter to Protect from freezing weather.

E. Lives in areas with ColD winters. Most of the trees have needles instead of leaves to lose less water.

F. Lives in water so the Plants have little to no roots.



Source: https://www.thinglink.com/scene/730790365904240642