



Plant Survival

Overview:

This lesson will have students observing a plant for a week. After the lesson is finished, students will understand that plants need sunlight, water, air, and nutrients to survive.

Materials:

- 2 shoe boxes
- 2 identical plants
- Black construction paper
- Measuring cup
- Marker
- A ruler that measures in centimeters
- Water



Procedure:

1. Explain to students that they will observe two plants (labeled Plant A and Plant B) over the course of a week to determine if plants need sunlight to grow.
2. Ask students to create a hypothesis: What will happen if someone covered the leaves of Plant B and did not water it? Have students record their hypothesis.
3. Ask students to figure out how they will determine the differences in the two plants over a week. What materials are needed? What steps will they follow?
4. Have students record the number of leaves on each plant, the color of the leaves, and the height of the two plants.
5. Cover the leaves of Plant B with black construction paper. Find a sunny spot for Plant A and water it daily.
6. Have students repeat step 4 (this is their “test” that will determine if plants need sunlight) each day.
7. At the end of the week, ask students if their hypothesis was right. Have them record their findings.
8. Ask students about the two plants. Some examples: Why did the leaves on Plant B change color? Why did Plant A grow but Plant B not grow?

Next Generation Science Standards Used:

2-LS2-1: Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow.