

Plant Growth Observations

Subject: Noticing changes in plant growth influenced by the seasons

Duration: 20 minutes

5E: Engage and Explore

Group Size: Individual

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

Disciplinary Core Idea: LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems-Plants depend on water and light to grow.

Science & Engineering Practices: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations

Cross-Cutting Concepts: Cause and Effect

Overview: Students think about what plants need to grow by observing photos of plants growing during the different seasons. Then students look outside to observe plant growth near their home. Students answer the question “what do plants need to grow?” by reflecting on their observations.

Method: Students use a powerpoint to guide them through this activity.

Materials: powerpoint

Preparation: getting computer ready with powerpoint

Procedure:

1. Introduction to the topic and thinking about the seasons (fall, winter, spring, summer)
2. 4 slides with photos of each season
 - a. What do you notice about plants in ____ (fall, winter, spring, summer)?
 - b. What is the weather like during that season?
3. Students reflect on the 4 photos and choose which season they noticed the most plant growth in.
4. Students look out their window or go outside to figure out what season we are in.
 - a. Noticing the difference in plants in the sun versus the shade.
5. Concluding question “What do you think plants need to grow?”
 - a. Students think back on the photos and their observations to guide their answer.