

What Are the Parts of a Plant?

A Pre-Visit Lesson to *Tops & Bottoms*

Objectives: To recognize and identify the basic parts of a plant.

Curricular Area: Science

Skills: Observation
Communication
Cooperation

Time: One class period

Background Information:

- * Seeds—come in many different shapes and sizes. A seed is the “baby” part of a plant.
- * Roots—part of the plant that grows into the ground. The roots anchor the plant into the soil and absorb water and nutrients that the plant needs.
- * Stems—support the plant. Water and nutrients are transported up the stem to the leaves, and food (made from the leaves) travels down the stem to the roots.
- * Leaves—use energy from the sun to make food for the plant.
- * Flowers—allow the plant to reproduce. Flowers are structures responsible for producing seeds. After flowers are pollinated, the flower turns into a fruit. The fruit protects the seeds inside. After the fruit ripens, it falls to the ground and the seeds inside have the opportunity to grow into new plants.

Materials:

- * One carrot per group (Be sure that carrot contains the leaves and stems, too.)
- * Construction paper
- * Tape
- * Crayons

Procedure:

1. Divide students into groups, and distribute one carrot per group.
2. Instruct students to observe the carrot using all of their senses.
3. Allow time for students to share what they have noticed about their carrot. Write down everything the students share, including what they saw, what they smelled, and what they felt.
4. Continue the class discussion by explaining the basic parts of a plant.
5. Pass out a piece of construction paper to each group, along with some crayons and tape.
6. Instruct the students to take apart their carrot. Have them tape the three basic parts of a plant to their construction paper. Students should also label the basic parts of the carrot.

Extension:

Discuss what items are made out of plants. Allow students to explore the classroom for items made from plants. Have them write a list and draw a picture of each item they find.