

Plant Study

Kindergarten

[Tops and Bottoms](#) is a great book to introduce plant parts.

Plant related science standards

*Observe and describe similarities and differences in the appearance of plants. Have students each chose one plant to describe as they walk around the Farm. One at a time the students can use a pretend microphone to stand in front of the group, next to their plant and pretend they are on TV explaining why this plant is the most interesting plant in the world.

*Identify major structures of common plants. Start at the [Tops and Bottoms Garden](#) and move on from there around the Farm naming plant parts.

Grade One

[Jack's Garden](#) is a great book to read to show the incredible diversity of life in the garden.

Plant related science standards

*Plants inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places.

Compare the difference between the succulents and cactus in the greenhouse with tropical houseplants. Why are some leaves thick and others are thin? Why do cactus have thorns?

*Plants need water and light. Experiment and find out what happens if they don't get what they need. Ask Farm staff for plants that can be experimented on.

*Animals eat plants and may use plants for shelter and nesting.

Observe the use of plants for food, shelter and nesting for the Farm animals such as straw for bedding, Go into the feed barns to see what plants animals eat such as alfalfa pellets for rabbits, corn, wheat and millet seeds for the chickens, etc. (Please don't feed the animals, though)

*Animals with flat teeth eat plants and animals with sharp teeth eat meat.

Check with Farm staff to see if you can pull some weeds and feed them to the animals to notice which animals have flat or pointed teeth.

*Roots are associated with the intake of water and soil nutrients and green leaves are associated with making food from sunlight. What roots do the students like to eat? Sometimes root crops are available to plant or eat. Swiss chard or Sorrell are good examples of leaves that can be eaten in the garden. Check with Farm staff for a plant you can dig or pull out to observe roots. Ask about plants that can go back to the classroom to determine what happens when a plant doesn't get light.

Grade Two

Good books to learn about plant life cycles are:

[Pumpkin Circle](#)

[The Tiny Seed](#)

[A Seed is a Promise](#)

[The Reason for a Flower](#)

Plant related science standards

*Plants have predictable life cycles.

*Plants reproduce “offspring” of their own kind that resembles their parents and one another.

*Characteristics of an organism are inherited from the parents. Some characteristics are caused or influenced by the environment.

*There is variation among individuals of one kind within a population.

*Light, gravity, touch, or environmental stress can affect the germination, growth, and development of plants.

*Flowers and fruits are associated with reproduction in plants.

[Observe plants around the Farm for variety and different stages of development. Ask Farm staff for bean seeds to do classroom experiments on light, gravity, environmental stress, etc. Many different kinds of seeds are available to plant in the greenhouse.](#)