Growing a plant

Introduction

In this activity, students find out how to grow a plant. They can also keep a record of its growth and the changes it undergoes.

Your students will be able to keep a plant diary and take responsibility for looking after the plant.


Level: Primary A1+

Time: 30 – 40 minutes

Aim:

- To encourage students to learn how to grow and care for plants.

Preparation:

- To do this activity you’ll need some beans, some cotton wool, some glass jars and some water. Later you’ll need some pots and some soil.

- Note: If you have a small class, you could get each student to grow their own plant, but with larger classes it might be better to have one plant for each 4 – 5 students.

- Watch the video at: https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/how-videos/how-grow-bean-plant
Procedure:

- Ask students what they need to make a plant grow.
- Get their suggestions and show them the different objects as they guess them. You may need to help with some such as seeds or beans, sunlight and cotton wool.
- Show the students all the objects and help them say what the objects are.
- Ask what you should do with them to make the bean grow.
- Show the students the video at: https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/how-videos/how-grow-bean-plant
- Next, get them to tell you what to do with the objects, and then follow their instructions.
- You may ask them to watch again if they are giving you wrong instructions.
- Now give each student or group of students some beans, cotton wool and a jar and get them to prepare the jars.
- Next, put the water in the jars (You may want to do this yourself).
- Ask the students where the plants should go.
- Put the plants in a window so that they get some sunshine.
- Next, ask the students to draw a picture of the plants and write about what they did. You could also work through the activities from the British Council website: https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/sites/kids/files/attachment/how-to-grow-a-bean-plant-worksheet.pdf

Follow up

- Make sure that the students water their plants each day.
- At the end of each week, ask the students to draw a picture of their plant and write about how it has changed and how much it has grown.
Materials:

- Print copies of this worksheet from the British Council’s LearnEnglish Kids site:

Additional resources

Climate Action in Language Education lesson plans
- This series of twelve lesson plans provides teachers with step-by-step guidance and resources. They are an ideal starting point to help to address issues of sustainability in the classroom.
  https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/climate-action-language-education-lesson-plans

Plants
- Play a word game to learn and practise plant vocabulary.
  https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/word-games/plants

Nature flashcards
- Print sets of flashcards for places in nature, plants or nature objects, or print some for you to colour in and write the words!
  https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/flashcards/nature-flashcards

The lucky seed
- A lucky seed falls from the farmer’s cart. What will happen to it? Watch and find out!
  https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/the-lucky-seed

Facts about bumblebees
- Did you know there is a special day for bees in May? Watch this video to find out why bees are so important.
  https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/video-zone/facts-about-bumblebees
The life cycle of a flowering plant

- This lesson plan for primary learners looks at the life cycle of flowering plants.
  https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/life-cycle-flowering-plant

Peas!

- This lesson plan for A1 level primary learners aged 5 to 6 years old explores ecology, the environment and nutrition.
  https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/peas