



The Different Parts of a Plant and What They Do

KS2 SCIENCE

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

What Are the Main Parts of a Plant?

Plants might look simple, but they're actually made up of **several different parts**, and each part has an important job to do. Whether it's a tiny houseplant on your windowsill or a massive oak tree in the park, nearly all plants have **five main parts: roots, stems, leaves, flowers and fruits**. Understanding what each part does helps us see why plants are such amazing living things.

Roots: The Underground Workers

Roots are the part of the plant that grows downwards into the soil. Most of the time we can't see them because they're hidden underground. Their main job is to **absorb water and minerals** from the soil, which the plant needs to survive and grow. Roots also **anchor the plant** to the ground, keeping it steady even on windy days.

Think of it like a drinking straw: roots suck up water from the soil just like a straw sucks up juice from a glass.

Stems: The Plant's Support System

Stems are the thick or thin green parts that hold up the rest of the plant. They grow upwards towards the light and carry water and minerals from the roots all the way up to the leaves. Stems also support the weight of the leaves, flowers and fruits, a bit like your skeleton supports your body.

Leaves: The Plant's Food Factory

Leaves are where plants make their own food using **photosynthesis**. They use sunlight, water and a gas called **carbon dioxide** from the air to create energy that helps the plant grow. This is why plants need sunlight to survive.

Think of it like: leaves are the plant's kitchen, where it cooks up its own meals using sunshine as the heat.

Flowers and Fruits: Making New Plants

Flowers are the colourful parts of the plant that attract insects like bees. When bees visit flowers, they help the plant make **seeds**. **Fruits** develop from flowers and contain these seeds inside. When animals eat the fruit or the fruit falls to the ground, the seeds spread to new places where new plants can grow.

Every part of a plant works together as a team to keep the plant alive, help it grow, and make sure new plants can grow in the future.