

Pondering plants



Background knowledge

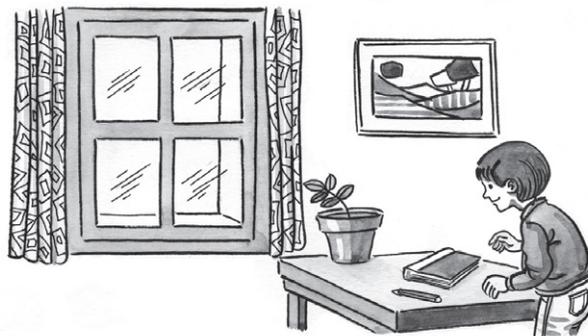
Plants grow and reproduce. They make their own food using energy from the Sun, carbon dioxide from the air, and minerals and water from the ground. The process by which plants make their own food is also known as *photosynthesis*. The prefix of the word means “light,” while “synthesis” means “to put together.” Plants are also sensitive to their surroundings and often move towards light during the day as they grow.

Science activity

Amanda noticed that the plant on the table was leaning toward the window. She turned the pot around. After a week, she was surprised to find that the plant was growing toward the window again. Explain why the plant grew this way.

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Science investigation

Obtain 2–3 bean seeds and plant them in a paper cup with soil about 0.6 cm deep. Build a chamber for the plant using two shoe boxes. Cut the end off one side of shoe box 1 and then cut an opening in the middle of the long side of shoe box 2. Tape the boxes together to form a “T.” Cut a hole with a diameter of about 3–4 cm at one of the short sides of shoe box 2. Cover the shoe boxes with aluminum foil so that no light can get in. Place the chamber near a window with the hole facing the window. Let the experiment run for about two weeks. Water the plant as needed.

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Science activity

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Plants react to light and grow toward it. Movement is a
characteristic of living things.....



Science investigation

For best results, soak the beans overnight. The plant will grow out of the hole in the shoe box over a period of about 10 days. To make a twisted plant, change the position of the opening every few days, before the plant grows out of the box.