

Living it up with plants



Background knowledge

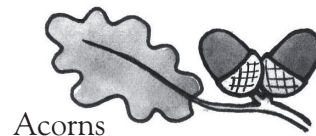
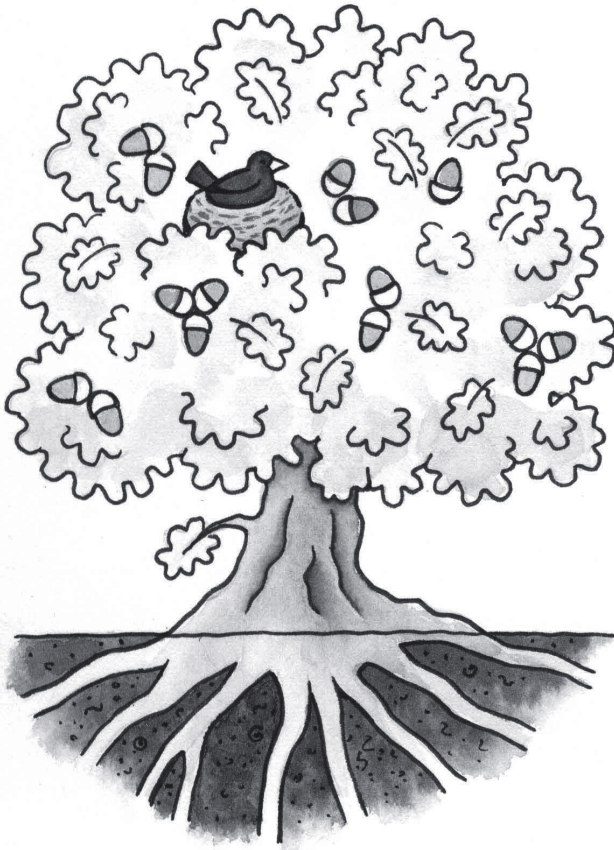
Plants are living things, but they are different from animals. Plants can make their own food inside their leaves. In order to make food, they need sunlight, gas from the air, and water from the soil. Plants use this food to grow and to carry out other life activities. They reproduce to make more plants like themselves. Unlike animals, plants do not move from place to place on their own. Plants are sensitive to light and grow toward it.

Science activity

Here are some observations about an oak tree. Put a check mark (✓) beside any fact that tells you the oak tree is alive.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The tree uses its leaves to make food. | <input type="checkbox"/> It produces acorns in the autumn. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birds nest in the branches. | <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrels eat the acorns. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It takes in water through its roots. | <input type="checkbox"/> It grows 300 mm each year. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The branches move in the wind. | |

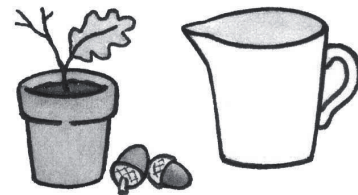
Oak tree



Acorns

Science investigation

Design and conduct an experiment to learn about a plant's life activities. How does it respond to its environment? How do you know it grows? Create your own questions to test.



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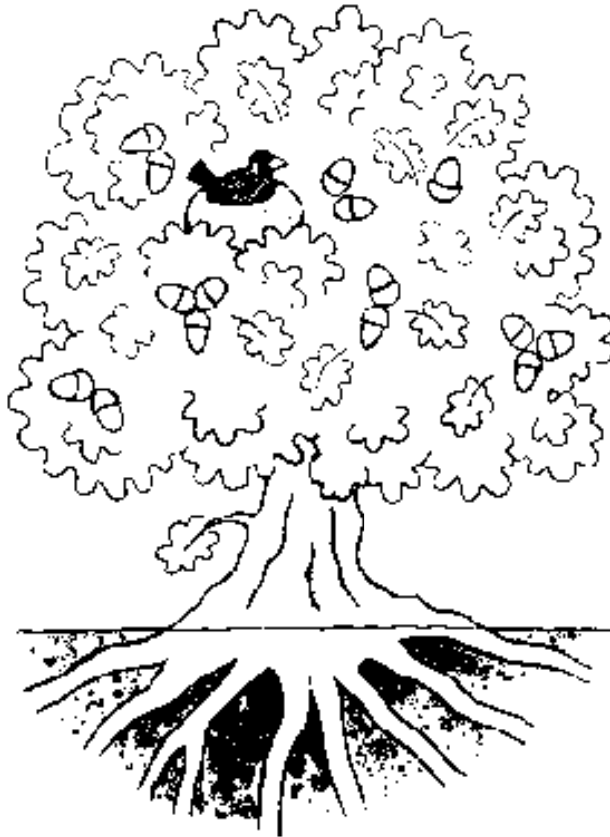
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Oak tree



Acorns

Science investigation

The investigator should notice many characteristics of life as he or she watches a plant grow. If the plant is placed by a window, the child will notice that it bends toward the light, illustrating light sensitivity and demonstrating how plants “move.”

