



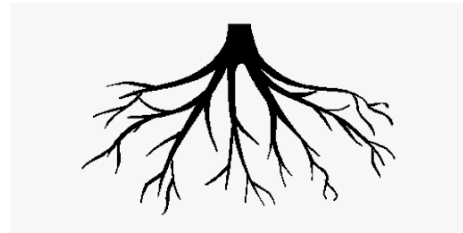
# VICTORY GARDENS

Lesson and Activity Suggestions for Middle School

## Parts of a Plant

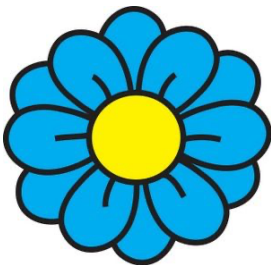
A plant is a complex living organism that interacts with the ecosystem it lives in. Plants grow from seeds which absorb nutrients and water through their roots. Plants also use their leaves to process nutrients in a process called, photosynthesis. Plants are an important role in the world's ecosystems by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. There are a large variety of plants that come in many shapes, colors and sizes. There are four general parts to most plants.

**Roots** hold the plant into the ground so it does not fall over. Plant roots soak up water and nutrients from the ground and transport them to the stem.



Depending on the plant, **stems** can vary from soft, hard, tough, woody or bendable. The job of the stem is to hold the leaves up to soak in sunlight, so the stem will grow away from the ground and towards the sun. The stem also carries nutrients and water to the flowers and leaves.

Just like stems, **leaves** can come in a variety of shapes, sizes, colors and textures. The leaves soak in the sunlight so the plant can make food for the plant which is called photosynthesis.



The **flower** makes new seeds which allows the plant to reproduce.

### Activity 1: Practicing the Terms

Click on the links below to help familiarize yourself with the parts of a plant.

Matching Game:

<https://www.studystack.com/picmatch-3216623>

Bug Match Game:

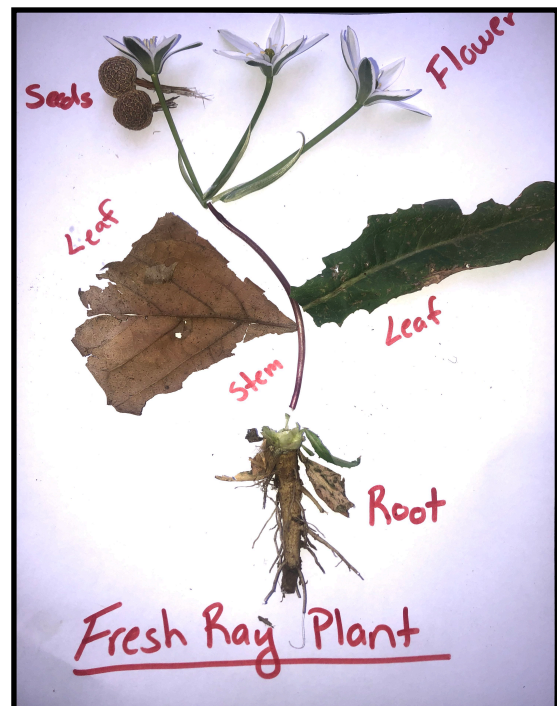
<https://www.studystack.com/bugmatch-3216623>

### Activity 2: Creating Your Own Plant

Now, that you are comfortable with the major parts of a plant, you are going to create your own plant! Go outside and identify and cut a stem, a flower, a root and leaves from all different plants to create your own species of plant. Construct your plant on a piece of paper and label the parts and give your plant a name. Take a picture of your new plant creation.

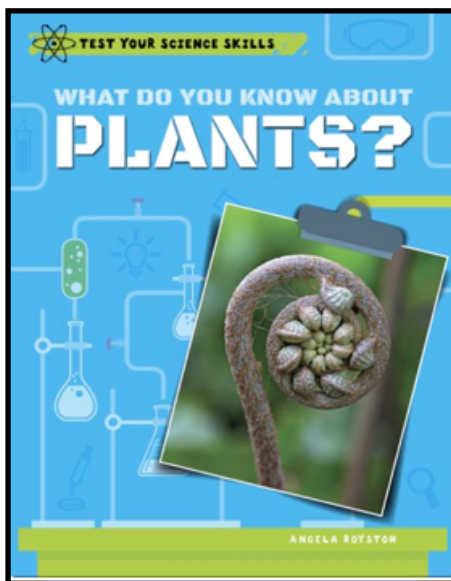
Here is an example of a new plant. Seeds were even added. Once you create your new species of plant describe your new plant.

Create a description of where your new plant would live. What is the weather like there? Is your new plant wild or domestic and grown by farmers? Does it cause allergies? Is it a weed or a highly sought after flower for dinner tables? How did your plant earn its name? Use your five senses; sight, sound, touch, smell and taste to help describe this new plant. (DO NOT actually taste your plant, just imagine what it might taste like!).



## Additional Reading Materials over Plants

The following books are available on the Epic! app for continued learning about the cool things plants can do!



### **What Do You Know About Plants?**

By: [Angela Royston](#)

Experience the bizarre and remarkable world of plants through exciting experiments.



### **I Ate Sunshine for Breakfast: A Celebration of Plants Around the World**

By: [Michael Holland](#)

Illustrated by: [Phillip Giordano](#)

Did you know that the rubber in your shoes came from a tree? Get ready to learn everything you never knew about plants and then some!