

Plants

Introduction

Plants are all around us and they come in lots of different types, sizes and colours. You might find plants in your home, in water, in hot places and in cooler places. Have you ever wondered why they're so important? Let's find out!

Features of a plant

Most plants are made up of flowers, leaves and stems. Each of these features have a purpose. Stems keep the plant upright and it tilts the flower towards the sunlight. It also carries water to other parts of the plant. All land plants have roots that grow down in the soil. Roots anchor the plant which means that it stops the flower from falling over in strong winds or stops animals pulling the plant out of the ground. Petals are often really colourful and smell beautiful. Buttercups are bright yellow, bluebells are blue and wild roses are pink. Did you know that they are brightly coloured to attract the bees and insects? How wonderful are these lovely flowers swaying in the breeze!

How do plants grow?

A seed has a hard shell that has a young plant inside. Seeds grow in the soil when the sun and rain has made them warm and wet. In the soil, the shell of the seed splits. The root sprouts down and the shoot grows upwards towards the sunlight. How interesting is that! Did you know that the largest seed in the world is the coco de mer that is bigger than a football?

Why do animals and humans need plants?

Humans and animals could not survive without plants! Plants give us oxygen which we need to breathe and it also cleans the air for us. Secondly, we also need plants to eat because they provide us with delicious and healthy fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds. Did you know that the world's heaviest fruit is the jackfruit that weighs the same as 7 a year old child? We get broccoli from the flower of the plant, lettuce from the leaves and carrots from the root of the plant. Animals also need plants to use as their homes and habitats.

What do plants need to stay alive?

All plants need water, nutrients, sunlight, air and the right temperature to grow. If they didn't have one of these conditions then they wouldn't grow healthily and would probably die. Water comes from the rain and humans when they water the plants but too much water can kill plants.

Other facts

We are very lucky that different plants are grown all over the world so that we can eat different fruits and vegetables to keep us healthy. Apples are grown in England, bananas can be found in hot Asia, mangoes are in India, oranges in China and tomatoes in South America.