

Spring Block 3

Plants (light and dark)

Small steps

Step 1

Findings – light and dark

Key resources

Step 1 – Findings – light and dark

- two plants: one grown in the dark and one grown in the light
- rulers or tape measures
- cubes to show differences in plant growth



Findings – light and dark

Notes and guidance

In this small step, children look at their findings for the comparative test they started in Block 1. They observe changes between the plant kept in the light and the one kept in the dark. Children should compare the two plants and suggest simple reasons for these differences. They may need to recap what a plant needs in order to stay healthy. Children do not need to look at how temperature affects plant growth, as this is something they will investigate in the summer term.

Within this step, there are opportunities for children to measure and compare the growth of both plants using appropriate measurements. They should decide how they will measure the length of the plants using equipment, such as rulers. Children should provide an answer for the enquiry question within this step.

Things to look out for

- Depending on the outcome of the investigation, the plant which has been kept in the dark may have grown as tall as the plant with access to light. Ensure that children are looking at the overall health of the plant when discussing their findings.

Key questions

- What do plants need to grow and stay healthy?
- What happened to the plant kept in the dark?
- What happened to the plant that was given sunlight?
- How are the plants different now?
- What happened to the plants over time?
- How did you measure the height of the plants?
- Do plants need sunlight to grow and stay healthy?

Enquiry question

- Do plants grow healthier in the light or dark?

National curriculum links

- Find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.
- **Working scientifically** – Gathering and recording data to help in answering questions.

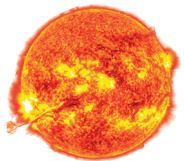
Findings – light and dark

Key vocabulary

- **plant** – a living thing that usually grows in soil
- **seed** – a part of a plant that can grow into a new plant



- **sunlight** – light from the Sun



- **living** – something that needs air, shelter, food and water to survive



- **dead** – something that was once living but is now not alive



Practical ideas

- Ask children to comment on the appearance of their plants kept in the light and in the dark.

Encourage them to identify any differences in plant growth between the two plants.

Children can measure the height of each plant as well as discussing any differences in appearance.

- Children could create a short presentation to explain how the plants kept in the light and dark have grown over time.

They could present their group's findings to the rest of the class.



Factual knowledge

- Plants need water to grow and stay healthy.
- Plants need light to grow and stay healthy.
- If plants do not have water and light, they may become weak and will not grow properly.