

Exploring Plant Parts

Lesson Description

In this lesson, students review the 6 parts of a plant. They learn the job of each plant part. They sing the **Plant Parts Song** to reinforce these concepts. An Elder guest instructor introduces traditional names and uses of plants. Students harvest or weed in the garden and examine the parts of the harvested plants/weeds.

- Time required: 60 minutes
- Location of lesson: Garden

Learning Objectives

- Describe the 6 parts of a plant and each of their functions.
- Identify plant parts from plants and weeds in the garden.
- Learn traditional names and traditional uses for plant parts.

Materials and Preparation

- 2 harvested plants from the garden, with roots and other parts intact
- Prepare a poster (or draw on a white board) of a diagram of a plant showing the 6 plant parts
 - Wait until the class discussion to label each of the 6 parts on the picture
- Computer with speakers or other device to play the MP3 file
- Invite an Elder to join the class and introduce the traditional names of plant parts and some traditional uses of plant parts
- 🖐️ **Plant Parts Song** lyrics; print enough copies for all students
- 🖐️ **Plant Parts Song** MP3
- Prepared vegetable snack of the week – 1 for each student
- Water to drink during the Class Warm-up – water dispenser in the classroom and 1 cup or a water bottle for each student

Class Warm-up: Champion Cheer and Veggie Taste Test (5-10 minutes)

- Give each student a cup of water or ensure that they have a filled water bottle in front of them.
- Give each student the prepared veggie snack of the day.
- Lead the students in enthusiastically reciting the 📖 **Champion Cheer**.
- At the end of the cheer, drink water and eat the veggie snack together.
- Have students complete their 📖 **Taste Test Observations** about the vegetable snack of the week.

Review of Last Lesson (2-3 minutes)

- Review the evaluation questions from last week’s lesson. Evaluation questions from all lessons are listed at the end of the workbook .

Class Discussion: Plant Parts (10 minutes)

Ask some warm-up questions about today’s topic (note: students who were in the school garden class last year will likely know these answers)

- *How many different parts make up a plant? What are those parts?*
- *Raise your hand if you’ve ever eaten a plant. What kinds of plants do we eat?*
- *Do you know that each part of the plant has an important job? Today we will learn more about the jobs of each plant part.*

Show the students the harvested plants from the garden, and point out the different parts as you name them and explain their purpose. Pass the harvested plants around for students to see. Point to the plant diagram you drew on the board or on the poster.

There are 6 different parts of a plant: roots, stem, leaf, flower, fruit and seed. Each part has an important job.

- *The **roots** support the plant and take in water and food for the plant.*
- *The **stem** supports the leaves and transports water and food.*
- *The **leaves** catch the sunlight to make food for the plant.*
- *The **flower** produces the fruit and helps make seeds.*
- *The **fruit** protects the seed and helps with spreading seeds around.*
- *The **seed** produces a new plant.*

Have 6 different students come up to the front of the class; 1 to label each of the 6 parts of the plant on the diagram.

Let’s go over the jobs of each plant part again. What do the roots do? What does the stem do? What do the leaves do? What does the flower do? What does the fruit do? What does the seed do?

Activities (35 minutes)

-  “Plant Parts Song” (5 minutes)
 1. Distribute copies of the  **Plant Parts Song** lyrics.
 2. Sing the chorus of the  **Plant Parts Song** to the students.
 3. Do body movements to help connect the part of the plant (for example: for the roots, point to their feet; for the stem, point to their legs; etc).
 4. After singing the chorus to them, have the class stand up and sing it as a group.
 5. Play the  **Plant Parts Song** MP3 and have everyone sing along.

Class Discussion with an Elder Guest: Traditional Names and Uses for Plant Parts (15 minutes)

Introduce the traditional names for the 6 plant parts, pointing to the parts on the harvested plants. Have students repeat each name after it is introduced.

Discuss traditional uses for plants and discuss how different plant parts are used in your community.

- **“Plant Part Hunt” (15 minutes)**

1. Go to the garden and show examples of different types of plant parts (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruit, seeds).
2. Have students harvest produce that is ready to be harvested.
3. Look at the different parts of the harvested plants.
 - a. If there is no produce to harvest, pick weeds and examine the parts of the weeds.

Evaluation Questions (5 minutes)

1. *What are the 6 parts of a plant?* (Answers: roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruit, seeds)
2. *What is the purpose of the seed?* (Answer: produces a new plant)
3. *What is the purpose of the roots?* (Answers: supports the plant, takes in water and food)
4. *What does the fruit part of the plant do?* (Answer: protects the seed and helps spread seeds around)
5. *What are the traditional names for plant parts?*
6. *What are some traditional uses of plants in our community?*
7. *How much water should you drink every day?* (Answer: at least 6 cups of water a day)
8. *How many fruits and vegetables should you eat every day?* (Answer: at least 5 fruits and vegetables a day)
9. *Does gardening connect you to your culture and help you learn new words in your language?* (Answer: yes)

Preparation for Future Lessons – Reminder for the Instructor

- Review the materials and preparation needed for the next lesson.
- Remember that an Elder guest instructor is needed for these Fall lessons: Lesson 2 (Exploring Plant Parts), Lesson 4 (Traveling Seeds), Lesson 6 (Winterizing the Garden) and Lesson 10 (Companion Planting and Traditional Cooking).

Notes
