

Year 2 Science - Plants

Learning from Home Activities



Year 2 Programme of Study – Plants

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Note for parents: The main focus of science teaching in key stage 1 is to enable pupils to experience and observe things, and to look at the natural and human-made world around them. Encourage your child to be curious and ask questions about what they notice, and help them to use different methods to answer their questions, such as observing changes over time, grouping and classifying things, carrying out simple tests, and finding things out using books and the internet. Talk to your child about what they are doing and encourage them to use simple scientific language to explain their ideas to you. Most science learning should take place through first-hand, practical experiences, therefore this booklet contains some ideas for recording information but has a strong focus on practical activity as well.

Broad Bean Bonanza

You will need two or three clear plastic drinking cups, some plain white kitchen paper and a packet of broad bean seeds.

Wrap one sheet of kitchen paper around the inside of each cup, then stuff the centre of the cups with paper as well. Slip a broad bean seed between the cup and the outer sheet of paper, so that it is visible from the outside. Now, water the paper so that it is wet but not soaking, put the cups in a warm, light place, and keep them well-watered. Look at the seeds every day and watch how they are developing. You can draw the changes here:



Note for parents: Broad beans are one of the best choices for children to plant and grow as they develop quickly, and the parts can be clearly seen as they grow. If you have one, your child can use a magnifying glass to observe the bean seeds closely as they develop.

Other Ideas

We suggest that you plant more than one broad bean seed because sometimes seeds don't germinate. If you are planting more than one, you could try these ideas:

- Once one of the seeds starts to grow roots, put the cup inside a shoe box with a small hole cut in the lid. Wait and see what happens. Don't forget to keep the cup watered!
- Try planting the bean seed upside down. Broad bean seeds have a black line at one edge – this is where the roots emerge. Try putting the seed in the cup with the black line at the top. Predict what you think will happen. Will the roots grow up and the shoots grow down?
- Put one of your cups in the fridge. Do you think this will make a difference? Check it every day and compare it to a seed which is in the warmth.
- Have a seed growing competition- whose seed will sprout the tallest?
- Once your seed has grown a few leaves, if you want to keep it growing, you will need to put it in a pot of soil or in the garden. If you do this, you could grow your own broad beans to eat for dinner!

All of these activities can also be done with bulbs. Sit the bulb on top of a cup or glass of water so that its roots are touching the water. You can buy special vases for growing bulbs, if you prefer. Hyacinth bulbs work well for this, and you can try all the activities suggested for the broad bean seeds.



Share What You Know about Seeds

Imagine you are writing instructions to go on the back of a packet of seeds. What would you tell people to do to make sure their seeds grow and stay healthy?

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- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

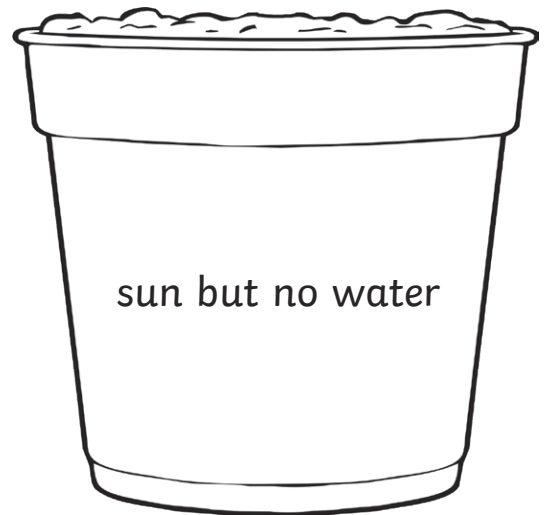
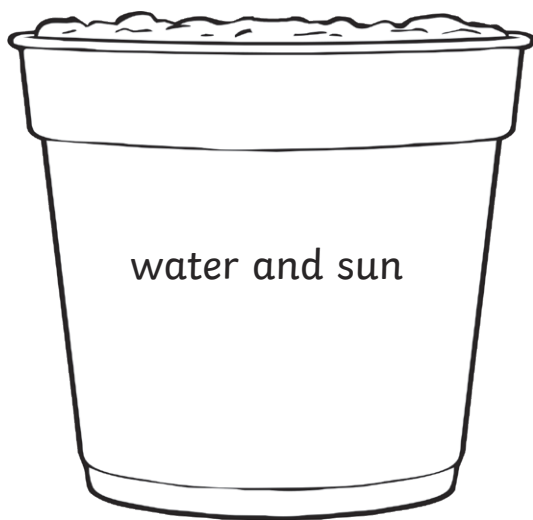
Note for parents: Children can complete this activity at their own level. Confident writers should be able to have a go at writing the instructions; less confident writers may need more support, or to express their ideas verbally.

Plant Predictions

Take three of your healthy broad bean plants. Put one on a sunny windowsill and water it every day, put one on the same windowsill but stop watering it and put the third one in a dark cupboard but water it every day.

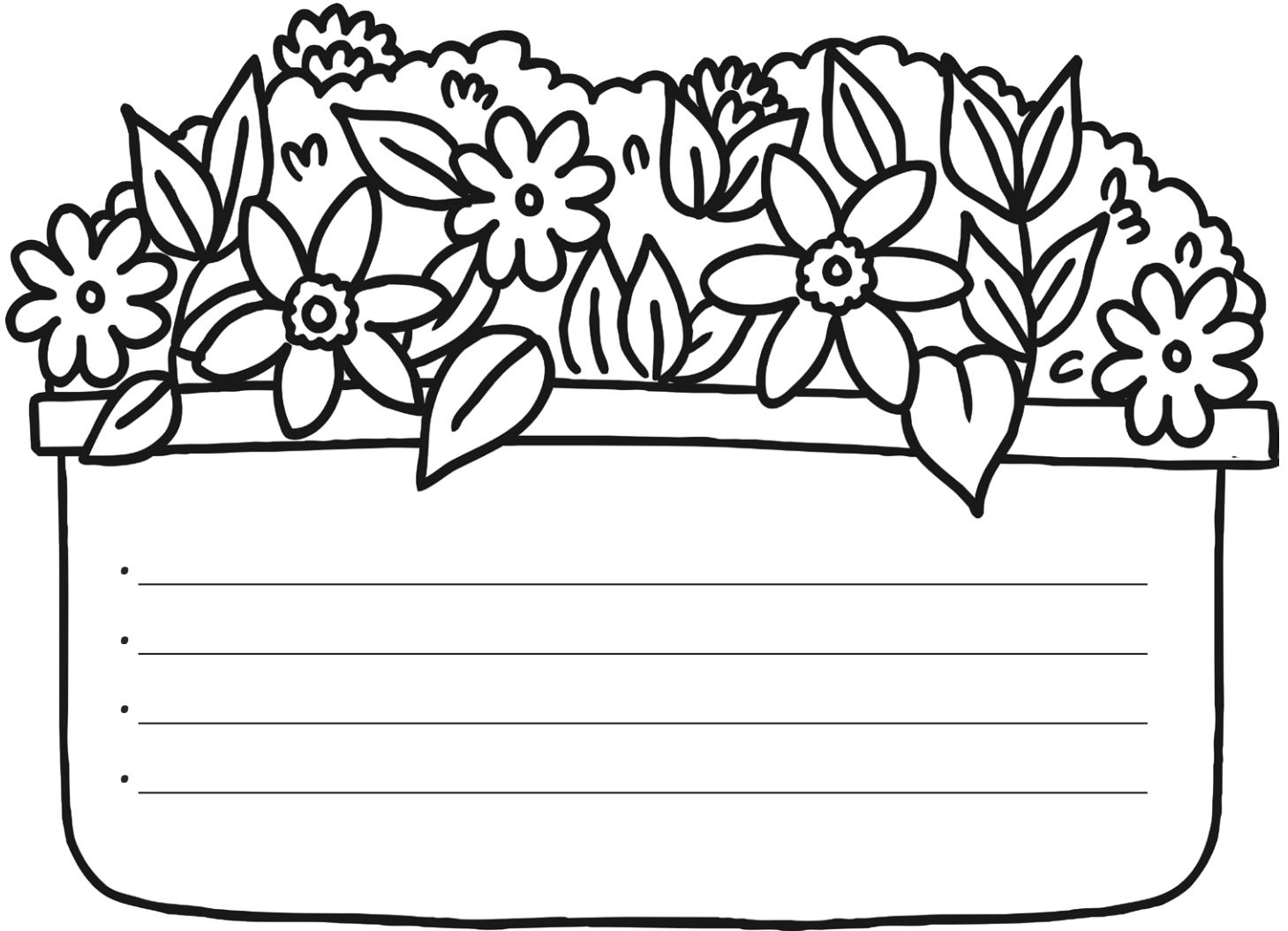
Draw pictures in these flowerpots of what you think your plants will look like in a couple of weeks. This is your prediction (what you think will happen).

After two weeks, compare your plants to your predictions. Were you right?



Share What You Know about Plants

Imagine you are writing instructions to go on the label of a plant that someone might buy from the garden centre. What would you tell people to do to make sure their plant grows and stays healthy?



Note for parents: Children can complete this activity at their own level. Confident writers should be able to have a go at writing the instructions; less confident writers may need more support, or to express their ideas verbally.

Key Vocabulary

Children should become familiar with this vocabulary and, where appropriate, depending on age and ability, read and spell the words.

seed bulb germinate grow	water sunlight warmth prediction	root shoot leaf
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