

**Grades:** 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
**Subjects:** Science  
**Core Standards:** 1<sup>st</sup> Standard 4, Students will observe and categorize plants and plant parts according to similarities and differences.

**Objectives:** **Students will...**  
1. Investigate different types of plants  
2. Record changes in appearance as plants grow

**Vocabulary:** **root, stem, leaf, flower, seed**

**Materials:** **Pre-visit:** paper for rubbings, paper for collages, glue, crayons, paper bag  
**Post-visit:** planted seeds, Plant Worksheet, markers or crayons, water, access to sunlight

### Pre-Visit Activities

Time: 30 – 40 minutes

1. Explain that you are going to investigate the different parts of plants from plants around the playground. Ask them what the different parts of plants are (stem, roots, leaves, seed, flower)
2. Take the students outside and have them explore and find as many different types of leaves, seeds, flowers, as they can. They can place items in a paper bag. They can also make rubbings on their paper of different bark textures.
3. After the students have collected different items and made some rubbings, they can return inside and create a collage out of their different rubbings and collected items. Have the students label the different plant parts they collected.

### Post-visit Activities

Time: 5-15 minutes per day, spread out over a few days

1. Students will record the day the seeds were planted and draw a picture of their seed during the program.
2. Check the seeds every day to see if they have come up, record the date and draw a picture when they come up. Students can help to check the soil and see if the seedlings need more water.
3. After the seeds come up, have the students draw a picture of their seedlings every few days using their plant worksheet. You can also have the students measure how big the seedlings are every week.
4. Once the plants are big enough, you could send them home with the students to plant or plant them somewhere in the yard.

Optional extensions:

Put some plants in a shady spot of the classroom and other plants in a sunny spot and compare how they growth. You could also compare growth in plants that get different amounts of water.