

Survival!

Survival! links to the Life Processes and Living Things strand. It looks at green plants, variation and classification, and keeping healthy (Sc2, 3a, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5b).

Key Science Concepts

- **Different parts of a plant can provide food.**
- **Plants can provide habitats and shelter for other organisms.**
- **Plants are adapted to suit their environment.**
- **Plants provide us with other useful materials.**
- **Different parts of a plant have different functions.**

Background Knowledge

Plants have roots which act like straws, absorbing water and minerals (nutrients) from the soil. The roots can become food stores for the plant and can be eaten, for example, root vegetables such as carrots and radishes.

The stem supports the plant, holding it up to the light. The stem also works as a transport system, transporting water and nutrients from the roots and food, in the form of glucose, from the leaves and other plants.

Leaves are where food for plants is made, through a process called photosynthesis. Water is also lost through the leaves. This process is called transpiration.

Many parts of the plant can be eaten-roots (carrots, parsnips, onions), leaves (cabbages, lettuce), stems (celery), fruits and seeds (apples, nuts).

Plants and woodland areas can provide a sheltered habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Before the Reading

Have students complete the fill in the blank vocabulary worksheet.

During the Reading

Have students fill out the list map organizer, responding to the question: Could I survive? They should use knowledge gained from reading *Survival!* to complete the list map.

After the Reading

Have students write a diary entry- A week of survival in the wild. How did you survive? What did you do? They should include scientific facts, for example, water can be obtained from trees due to transpiration and condensation.

Challenge Activity

Dissect a plant and identify its parts. Predict and research the functions of each. What would happen to the plant without each part? This activity provides opportunities for observation and using a microscope.

Explore plants is medicine-aspirin and penicillin for example. Research how they were discovered and how they are used worldwide.

Vocabulary Sheet-Answer Key

1. trunk
2. canopy
3. Fire
4. rainforest
5. earthquake
6. edible
7. plants
8. food
9. nutritious
10. C
11. stringy/threads
12. warmth
13. blowpipes
14. liquid/gas
15. North Pole