

Water and Plants...How Dry I Am

Summary

Two similar plants are observed as one gets regular water and the other does not.

Materials

For the Teacher:

2 plants of the same size, variety, and in the same type pot. (Coleus or begonias can be easily obtained and react fairly quickly. Also consider using plant cuttings or spider plant "babies." These would simply be placed in water or not in water.)

Chart paper

For the Student: (Individual)

Drawing paper

Pencil or crayons

Background for Teachers

No known organisms can exist without access to water in some form. Water is perhaps the most important substance to life on earth. Humans, other animals, and plants need water. Water makes up about 65 of the human body. Without it, we would be able to live less than a week. Plants get water through rainfall, irrigation, and dew. Even in deserts, plants would die without moisture.

Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Make observations. 7. Distinguish between observations and inferences.

Instructional Procedures

Extensions

1. Roots take up water from the soil. This can be shown with a potato. Peel the bottom half of a potato and slice a little off the end so that it can stand on end. Dig a hole in the top of the potato. Stand the potato on its flat end in a dish of water. The potato will soak up water from its base and fill the hole in the top with water.
2. Leave a potato in a dark, warm spot for several weeks. Ask, "What will happen to the potato? If we leave it in the dark for several months, will the potato die?" Try the experiment.
3. Have students read about how plants and animals get water in the desert.

Authors

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