

Planting seeds

Approach: One to one interview

Level: Year 8 & year 4

Resources: Video (1 minute long) showing plants growing, empty pots, a choice of planting mixes, choice of seeds and a jug of water. The presenter outlines the idea of a fair test, and explains that the experiment is to focus on the effect on growth of different amounts of water.

<i>Questions/instructions</i>	% responses		
	<i>year 8</i>	<i>year 4</i>	
<p>In this activity you are going to think about a seed growing experiment. You want to find out if the amount of water the seeds get makes a difference to how well they grow.</p> <p>We'll start by looking at a video.</p> <p>Play video. You need to plan an experiment to find out if the amount of water seeds get makes a difference to how well they grow.</p> <p>The experiment needs to be a fair test — most things need to be kept the same for each container. This is so that any differences in the way the plants grow is because of the amount of water added.</p>			
1. If you were doing a fair test, what would you need to keep the same for each tray?			
Soil, seed, container, environment, fertiliser	3 or more correct choices	41	16
	2 correct choices	37	38
	water (incorrect)	45	63
2. What would need to be different for each tray?	water	71	36
3. To start sprouting from the seed, plants need energy. Where do they get their energy from?	seed itself	2	4
	sun	69	37
4. After plants have sprouted they need energy to keep growing. Where does this energy come from?	sun	64	30
5. Many people grow plants in pots. Sometimes these plants die. What could cause these plants to die? Tell me as many reasons as you can think of.	Explanations rated "very good"	31	12