



INVESTIGATING PLANTS

KS 2 SCIENCE QCA units 3B and 5B

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| <p>Learning Objectives During this Day Course pupils should learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü To investigate how plant growth is affected by light levels. ü To identify the different parts of flowers, fruits and seeds (depending on the season). ü That plants have adaptations which suit them to their environment. ü How plants can be identified using keys. ü That flowering plants reproduce and have many different stages in their life cycle. <p>Pupils will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Learn safely in a new environment; ü Gain an appreciation of the environment and understand their role in caring for it. | <p style="text-align: center;">Day Course Programme</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Where 2 classes are attending the course the introductory session will be common to both. Classes will then separate and sessions A and B will be interchangeable am and pm.</p> <p>Introduction: On arrival a member of CEES staff will welcome your group to the Centre and describe the day's programme and the learning objectives. An illustrated talk will consider the importance of plants in our everyday lives.</p> <p>Session A: This session takes place at the centre's nature reserve. Pupils will carry out a variety of activities to include using quadrats to measure percentage cover of plants on trampled and untrampled grassland; completing tree passports; investigating the effect of light and shade on nettle growth and scavenger hunting for examples of seasonal change in plants.</p> <p>Session B: This session is based at the Upware centre and its grounds. The pupils will be following a trail, focusing on the uses of different trees. There will also be the opportunity to carry out some practical work on the Centre's horticultural plots and plant vegetable seeds to take back to school. Other activities may include identifying leaves and creating collages of flowers showing the different parts.</p> <p>Plenary: The group will reflect on their day and consider how well the learning objectives have been met.</p> <p>Note: The actual programme may vary depending on number and needs of pupils, length of visit and weather conditions.</p> |
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Adult : Pupil ratios
 For this course CEES' recommended ratio for safety is **1: 8**
 For most classes, 4 pre-arranged working groups, each with an adult, is ideal. Additional adults may be needed with classes where individual pupils need 1: 1 support

Other information
 Please see separate guidance notes on safe and effective day courses, including information on clothing and equipment.

| Relevant extracts from CEES risk assessments | |
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| See also guidance notes on safe and effective day courses | |
| Hazard | Control measures |
| Severe weather | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEES staff are aware of daily weather forecast. • Alternative venues or activities are substituted if weather conditions are particularly unfavourable. • In extreme cases, where guidance notes on clothing (see overleaf) have not been complied with pupils may be excluded from activities. |
| Uneven ground, low branches on trees, steep slopes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils and adults are made aware of expected standards of behaviour and, for example pupils are instructed to walk, not run, to look ahead, and to stay close to their supervisory adult. |
| Unfamiliar surroundings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults supervise directly, for example, walking beside the group regularly checking that entire group is present. |
| Handling plants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are warned about known dangers regarding sharp, stinging and poisonous plants. • Pupils are instructed to wash hands thoroughly after handling plants before eating. |
| Working with soil and plants on horticultural plots. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective gloves or plasters worn by pupils with open cuts or skin problems. • Activities closely supervised by adults. • Pupils are instructed to wash hands thoroughly after handling plants before eating. |