

Planting Poppy Seeds Challenge



Teacher's Notes

The Big Question: What is the significance of the poppy? **Level:** First

Experiences and Outcomes

I can help to design experiments to find out what plants need in order to grow and develop. I can observe and record my findings and from what I have learned I can grow healthy plants in school.

SCN 1-03a

Additional Resources

Poppy seeds can be ordered from the Poppyscotland Learning website:

www.poppyscotland.org.uk/learning

Introduction

Before the children are involved in the following activities, they should share and discuss their knowledge of the poppy. Along with children's prior knowledge the following should be discussed:

- It is a flower which grows wild outside.
- It grows from a seed and produces a red flower.
- It is used to remember people who have been in war or conflicts.
- Plastic replicas are sold in November to raise money for ex-service personnel and their families.
- It became a symbol for wars after it grew in a place called Flanders Fields in Belgium and France once a war had finished.
- It symbolises new life.

Individually Planting Challenge (Science)

Discuss with the children what the poppy seeds need in order to grow and then clarify that water and sunlight are the most important. Therefore, before planting take the children outside to your school garden and let them choose where to plant the seeds.

Discuss with them whether it would meet the requirements for plant growth. They should choose an area which gets plenty of sunlight and is therefore not too shaded.

Then let the children prepare the ground by turning it over, so that the soil gets air into it. Then scatter the seeds and rake in lightly. Later, when they are large enough to handle, remove any seedlings which are too close together and replant so that they are approximately 15-30cm apart.

At this point, you should discuss the fact that the seedlings are in competition with each other for light and water.

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In order for the children to watch their own seed grow, you could ask them to write their name on a lollipop stick and place into the ground just next to where their seed is.

Learning Intention

I am learning about the best conditions needed for a seed to grow.
I am learning how to plant a seed.

Success criteria

I can plant my own poppy seed in a suitable area of the playground.
I can prepare the soil so that the seed can grow.
I can talk about things that a seed needs to grow, for example water and light.

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What Progress Have I Made Today?

Which box have you achieved today?

Early Level

I can explore, observe and discuss basic needs of plants.

Some basic needs are...

1st Level

I can observe and explain the outcomes from growing plants in different conditions, for example, light, water, air, soil/nutrients and heat.

Plants grow quickly when....

2nd Level

I can use findings from the investigation to explain the effects of fertilisers on plant growth.

The effects of fertilisers are....

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What Progress Have I Made Today?

Peer Marking Exercise / Self-Assessment

Tick all that apply

I can help to design experiments to find out what plants need in order to grow and develop. I can observe and record my findings and from what I have learned I can grow healthy plants in school.

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