

Science in the Garden

Investigate the importance of bees in the garden and discuss what might happen if bees became extinct?

Run a seed trial. Students prepare and plant containers with identical seeds. After planting, water one container with weak seaweed fertiliser and the other with plain water. Label both and record the weekly growth. After a few weeks graph and analyse the data.

Research the lifecycle of a plant or animal found in the garden and present your findings using a life cycle diagram.

Investigate the impact of soil temperature on seed germination by planting identical seeds in shaded and sunny areas of the garden and then comparing how long it takes for the plants to grow.

Identify the characteristics of an insect and then make a list of any insects that students have seen in the garden. Ask students to pick an insect and then research whether it is a friend or foe in the garden.

Find out about the science of agriculture in dry conditions. Design a garden for minimal water use.

Create square frames by taping together four twigs to form a square. Take the frames into the garden and put them down gently. Ask students to record their observations under the following headings: Insect life, Plants, Soil/Sand/Gravel.

Find out why people traditionally prune fruit trees? How does pruning stimulate plant's growth? What other ways do we manage plants to adapt their growth and life cycles to our needs?

Investigate how to alter the soil to suit the needs of plants? What does nitrogen do for plants? Make 'Nitrogen generators' signs to post around the garden next to nitrogen-fixing plants. Find out what else we can add to the soil, and why.

Measure the pH level of the soil in your garden.