Seeds to sunflower

Use the poster image as a starting point for children's work on growth

Whole class

Pass some sunflower seeds around the class. Compare the tiny seeds with the fully grown plant shown on the poster and other images of sunflowers. Invite the children to explain how they think such a small seed can become such a large plant. What does the seed need to grow? What will stop it growing? How might we investigate exactly what happens? How could they find out more?

Set up a class experiment to investigate what conditions a sunflower seed needs to germinate and grow. Use the **Diary of a plant (see photocopiable two)** to follow the main events in the young plant's life. You could also use time lapse photography techniques (see pages 31–34, *ChildEd* June issue) to review the different stages such as germination, root and root hair growth, stem development and so on.

DOWNLOAD IT TODAY!
Visit www.scholastic.co.uk/magazines/ce-timelapse.htm to view three time lapse movies produced by Lyndhurst Primary School.

Group/independent

Ask the children to investigate the different parts of a plant using books, CD-ROMs and the internet. Ask them to complete the worksheet, **What does each part do? (see photocopiable three)**. Provide them with a real plant or a picture of a plant to help them draw the diagram.

Look together at the experiment **How to see a plant grow (see photocopiable four)**. Let them discuss the experiment in groups. Set some questions to be answered, for example, *What will be the hardest part of the experiment? What will be the easiest? Where will the plant be positioned? Who will take the photographs? How will the plant be looked after?* Set the experiment up in small groups or as a whole class. Once the images have been recorded, use presentation software (such as *PowerPoint*) to create a simple animation. To do this in *PowerPoint*, put each image on a consecutive slide and then set the slide transition to *fade* to the next slide after one second.

Extension ideas

- Use the growth of a seed as the basis of a drawn animation. Give the children an eight-section storyboard to plan the animation showing the different stages of growth. Use animation software such as *2Animate* (visit **www.2simpleshop.com**) to produce the simple animated movie.
- Use music and drama to create a time lapse movie of the seed growing. Allow time for children to plan and practise their sequences – exploring body shapes and movement to convey the growth stages. If you wish, these sequences can be photographed and then viewed later as animations using *PowerPoint* or *2Animate*.
- In a literacy lesson, create a narration for your time lapse movie or animation. This could take the form of a simple play script based on the conversation between the seeds as they begin to grow.

The diary of a plant

Use this table to record the main events in the life of your plant. Use the key words to help you.

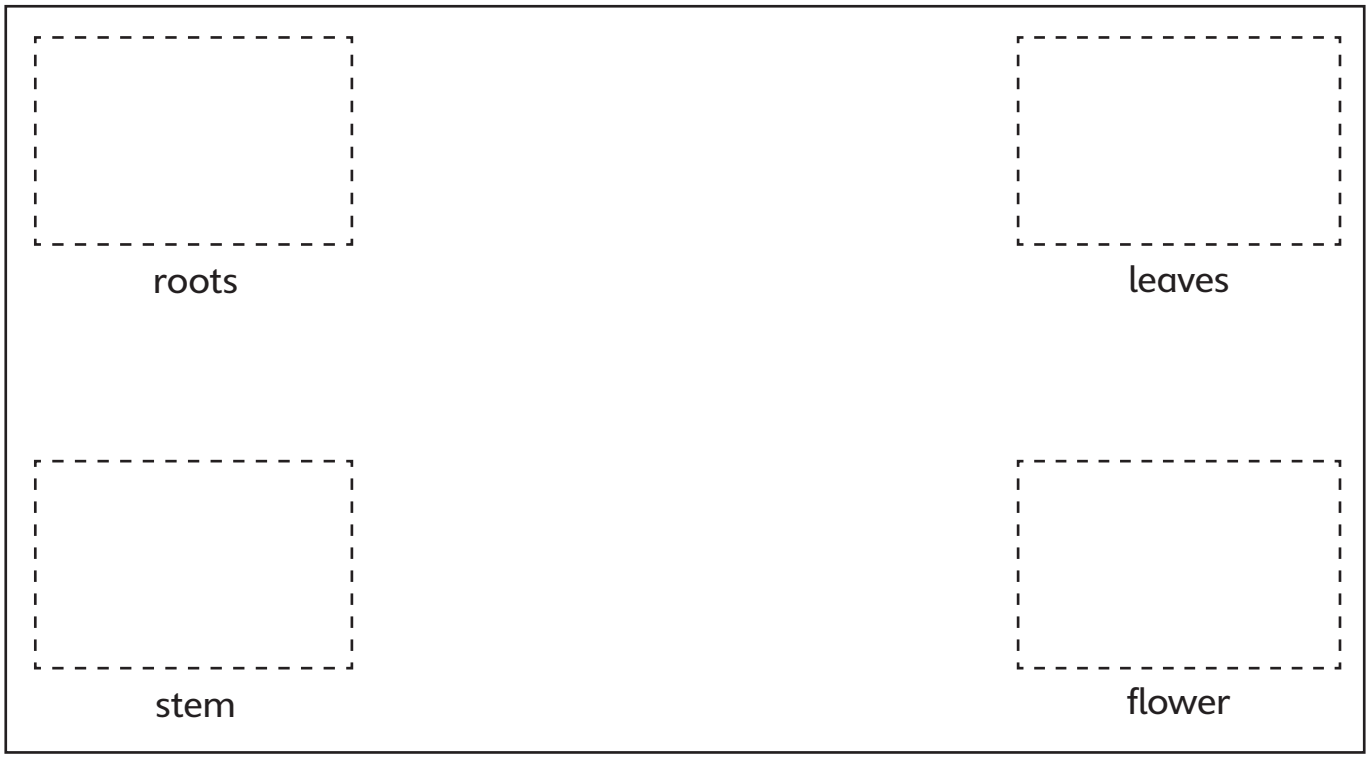
Day	Main event

Key words

seed	root	stem	leaf	flower
petal	water	germinate	light	dark

What does each part do?

Draw a diagram of a plant and label the flower, leaves, stem and roots.



Now, draw a line to match each part with what it does.

The plant makes its food here.	This keeps the plant standing up.	The plant makes the fruit and seeds here.	The plant gets water and minerals through these.

Name another part of a plant _____

What does this part do? _____

_____

_____

_____

How to see a plant grow

You will need
- digital camera
- seedling
- plant pot
- ruler
- Sticky tape
- Presentation software such as **PowerPoint** or **Word**

What to do

1. Plant the seed or seedling in the plant pot.
2. Tape a ruler to the side of the plant pot.
3. Take a photograph of the plant once every week for four weeks.
4. Measure the height of the plant each week. Record the information in the table below.
5. Insert your photos into the presentation software and put in order.
6. Write a caption for each image.

	Size of plant and description
Week 1	
Week 2	
Week 3	
Week 4	