

## **Fun to Grow On**

### **Planning to Plant a Dish Garden**

1. What is a dish garden?  
A dish garden is a miniature landscape in a container.
  
2. What type of container to use?  
A shallow container;  
Clay pot  
Plastic pot  
Dish with or without drainage holes.  
Wooden crate with liner  
Wicker basket with liner
  
3. Where will your garden be in your house?
  
4. What type of plants will be in the dish garden?  
Choose plants that will need the same amount of water and light.

## Bring to class on January 23<sup>rd</sup>

1. A clean container to build the dish garden.

Dish

Clay, pottery, plastic

With a hole in the bottom and a saucer, or a dish  
without a hole in the bottom

Basket

Wooden crate

2. A spoon for planting.

3. Your record book.

4. A three-ring binder to keep all your papers.

### **Extra if you have time:**

1. A book from the library, a magazine article, or an article from the internet on dish gardens.

**Provided by 4-H for Dish Gardening  
Class on January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Small plants you decided to use in your dish garden

Gravel

Plant charcoal

Potting soil

Plastic liners if needed

Sand

Fertilizer

## What do plants need in order to grow?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

# Plant Basics

Did you know that learning can be exciting and fun? There are lots of different ways to learn. Reading, listening, watching and doing are all ways to learn new things.

In this section, you will learn lots of new things in lots of new ways. You can use these new ways of learning in school, at home and with your friends.

## Plant Parts

Everyone knows that a plant has roots, leaves and a stem. But do you know what those parts do? They each have an important job in helping the plant grow. Knowing the parts of a plant and how they work together will help you as you grow plants. In this activity you will learn about plant parts and what they do.

**Life Skill:**  
Learning to learn

**Project Skill:**  
Identifying plant parts and their functions

**What to Do:**  
Complete the plant part word match

## Let's Explore

Unscramble the plant parts on the left. Then, draw a line from each part to its job on the right. Finish the activity by labeling the plant on the next page with six of the plant parts

that you have learned. Two of the parts are not shown on the plant. After you complete the activity, share what you have learned with your helper.

emts \_\_\_\_\_  
rofew \_\_\_\_\_  
irtfu \_\_\_\_\_  
otor \_\_\_\_\_  
afel \_\_\_\_\_  
esde \_\_\_\_\_  
mlepoh \_\_\_\_\_  
rubte \_\_\_\_\_



### What Am I?

1. My job is to anchor the plant and absorb water and nutrients.
2. I help the plant stand up straight.
3. My job is to carry food the plant has made.
4. I produce the seeds for new plants.
5. I protect and scatter the plant's seeds.
6. My job is to start a new plant.
7. I am a short underground stem that can make a new plant.
8. I turn sunlight into food for the plant.

# Talking It Over

## Share What You Learn

- Which plant parts did you already know?  
How did you find answers that you needed?
- What do each of the plant parts do?
- Why is it important to learn about the different parts of a plant?

How can you use the facts you have learned about plant parts?

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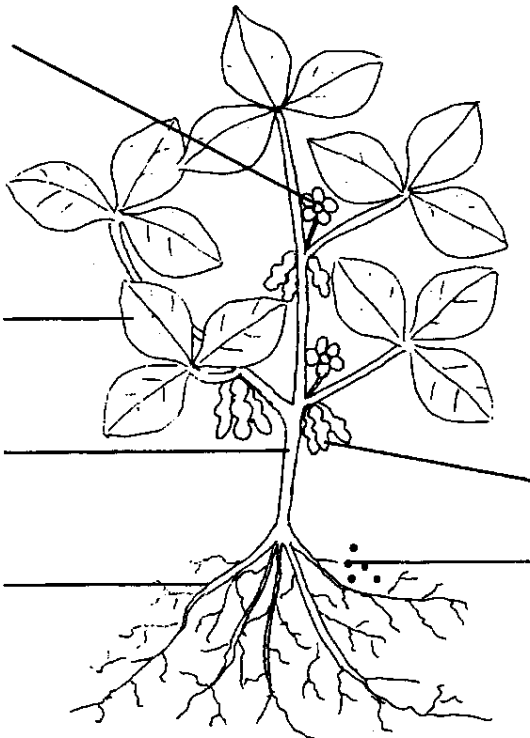
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## Use What You Learn

How do games, like word scrambles and crossword puzzles, help you learn and remember new information?

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What are the best ways for you to learn?

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## Take a Challenge

1. Find out about bulbs, rhizomes, corms and tubers. These plant parts grow underground but are not roots. What are they?

## **Planting a Dish Garden – A Miniature Landscape in a Container**

### **Materials:**

1. A table top container to hold at least three inches of soil
2. Gravel to provide drainage for the plants
3. Charcoal to freshen
4. Screen or newspaper to prevent soil from falling through the drainage holes
5. Potting soil
6. Chosen plants
7. Watering can and mister
8. Liquid fertilizer

### **Selecting and arranging plants:**

Select and arrange plants in a pleasing design. Choose your plants according to where the garden will be placed in your home. Arrange plants according to how the dish garden is to be viewed. If it is placed on a table and viewed from all sides, the largest plants should be planted near the center. When viewed from one or two sides, the tallest plants should be placed in the background. Don't over plant your garden. By adding fewer plants you will have a healthier garden which will fill in quickly and last much longer.

### **Preparing the dish:**

Adequate drainage is very important. The best method of draining the excess water from the soil is a hole in the bottom of your pot. The hole should be covered with newspaper or a patch of screen to prevent the soil from washing out. Put in an inch layer of pea gravel and charcoal. This type of planter will require a water tight tray under the garden.

If there is not a hole in your pot, cover the bottom of the container with an inch or two of pea gravel and coarse charcoal. Cover the gravel with a piece of screen to keep the soil from sifting down into the gravel.

### **Planting your plants:**

Be sure plants are not too wet or too dry. Place some potting soil over the layer of gravel. When you are ready to plant, remove plants CAREFULLY from their pots by placing your fingers over the soil, forming a "V" around, but not touching the stem. Turn the pot over and give it a light rap. This should dislodge the root ball allowing the pot to be lifted off. Lightly loosen the roots. Remove the pots from two or three of your plants at a time, beginning with the tallest plant first. Arrange the plants in a hole dug only as deep as they were growing in their containers. Pack soil GENTLY around the roots one at a time. Add more soil as necessary. The soil level should be about ½ inch below the rim of the planter. Cover the bare spots with moss. Water GENTLY just to moisten the soil when finished.

## **Caring for Your Dish Garden at Home**

Your dish garden should be kept in a place where it will receive the correct amount of light for the plants. Start your dish garden in bright, indirect light.

### **Watering your dish garden at home:**

To keep moss and other shallow-rooted plants looking fresh, a daily misting is much recommended, particularly if humidity is low. Allow the soil in your dish garden to become *nearly* dry, before you add a small amount of water with a watering can. Don't let your dish garden become too dry or too wet.

### **Feeding your dish garden:**

Trim overgrown plants once a month to keep them "in shape." You will not need to fertilize your plants for about 3 months because there is fertilizer in the potting soil we used. After that you can feed them every time you water with a VERY dilute ¼ strength liquid house plant food.

**With a little care, your dish garden will become a beautiful addition to your room. We want to keep our gardens looking healthy for the Mountain Community Fair in June.**