

Preparing for the Unit

1. Curiosity Centre

The Curiosity Centre gives students an opportunity to investigate science ideas and tools through active participation, free exploration, and independent play. In this hands-on centre, students can explore objects related to plants.

The Curiosity Centre could have

- fiction and non-fiction texts about plants; if possible, include books on Indigenous people's use of plants
- photographs and posters featuring interesting plants
- potted plants at various stages of their life cycle, including flowering and non-flowering plants
- seeds of various types and sizes
- soil and planting materials (e.g., cups, pots, shovels, watering cans)
- dried fruit and vegetables, herbs and spices, and other edible plants and plant parts
- everyday items made from plants (e.g., cork, cotton, henna dye, rubber, carnauba wax, sisal rope, different types of wood, different types of paper, objects or modes of items made or used by Indigenous peoples, etc.)

Check the centre frequently to ensure that it is well stocked with items. Invite students to contribute to the centre by bringing in items, texts, or images related to plant growth and changes. Remind students to tidy up the centre when they are finished.

Note: You may choose to display new items every few days or introduce items one at a time throughout the unit. Allergy concerns must be considered before adding any item to the centre. Remind students not to taste or consume any items in the Curiosity Centre.

2. Science Journals and Folders



Check that students are recording appropriately in their Science Journals, ensuring that they date each entry and record ideas using sketches with labels, lists of words, or sentences. Continue to encourage them to add new questions or ideas to their Journals as often as they like.

Remind students that they should store completed BLMs, drawings, graphs, etc. that are related to the *Plant Growth and Changes* unit in their Science Folders.

3. Word Wall



Add any relevant science terminology to the Word Wall throughout the unit. Urge students to use the terms as often as possible as they work through the unit.

4. I Wonder Wall



Build the I Wonder Wall throughout the unit by posting students' questions as they arise. Refer to the I Wonder Wall often and select questions that students may be ready to answer.

5. Reading Centre

Add texts (books, magazines, and photographs) relating to materials and structures to the Reading Centre. The titles in the Science Library will help start off a collection of books. Also, refer to the lists of non-fiction texts in the Additional Resources section of this guide (pages 69–71).