



Rolls-Royce

Cub Scout Scientist Badge

Part B The Living World



Growing cress

Leader's notes

Grow cress (or a similar plant) and investigate what happens when light and water are excluded from it

You will need:

- Cress seeds
- 3 small containers (yoghurt pots or half an egg box works well)
- Cotton wool
- Water
- Plastic bag or cling film.

Safety:

None

What to do:

1. Put a piece of damp cotton wool in the bottom of each of the containers and sprinkle the seeds onto the cotton wool. Press the seeds down gently
2. Cover the pots with cling film or put into a plastic bag and put in a warm place (a windowsill is ideal)
3. Check every day and make sure the cotton wool does not dry out (add a little water if you think it is getting dry)
4. Once you can see small shoots, take the cling film or plastic bag off and leave the containers in a warm and sunny place for a week. Keep checking to make sure the cotton wool does not dry out
5. After one week, stop watering one container. Put another one in a dark place (inside a cupboard or a box). Leave the third container on the windowsill and water it enough to keep the cotton wool damp
6. After the second week, compare the cress in the containers and see what has happened to it.

How does it work?

- Plants make the food they need to grow from sunlight, water and a gas called Carbon Dioxide
- Making food this way is called ***photosynthesis***
- Without water and light, the plants cannot make the food they need and will not grow properly
- Eventually, the plants will die without water and light.

Further ideas:

Before you plant the cress seeds, decorate the containers you are going to grow them in. Yoghurt pots look great decorated with a face and will have green 'hair' when the cress seeds grow. Eggs boxes cut in half can make cress caterpillars!

Find out how plants in the desert get water.

Talk about what things people needs to grow and stay healthy.