

Growing plants

Your challenge

- Discover how fast plants can grow.
- Plan a fair test.
- Measure and record the growth of plants.
- Communicate your results.

I think plants are boring. They never do anything.

My grandad says they are growing all the time



I asked how he knows. Can we test if he is right?

What to do

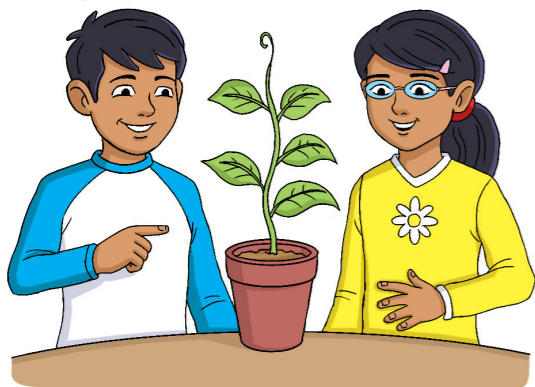
Decide how you will measure and record your plant's growth. Look at what the children in Class 3 did. You could do everything that they did.

We will count the leaves every Friday and record the number.

We will draw our plant every Wednesday.

We will take a photograph with the digital camera every Monday and Friday.

We will measure the height of our plant every Monday and record it.



What you need

- small pot plants
- small container to measure water
- a digital camera or a video camera with a timer
- a measuring stick or tape
- a balance or scales

What to check

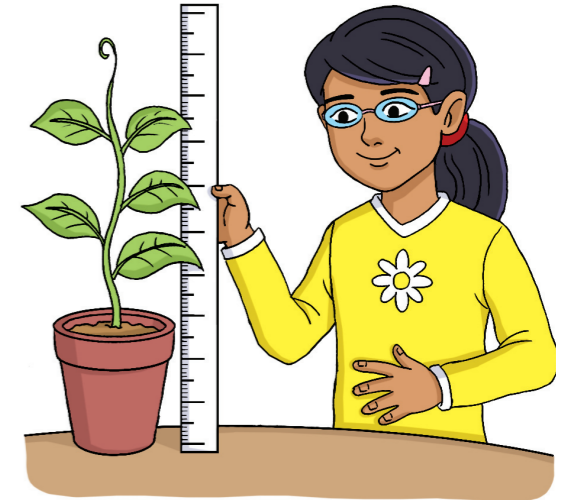
Now try it yourselves.

- What distance are you going to measure?
- Is this fair?
- What do you think will happen?

What did you find?

One group in Class 3 drew a table of their results. It looked like this.

Week	Height of plant (cm)
Start	15
1	17
2	20
3	25
4	31



Can you do better?

Was measuring better than counting?

How could you take different measurements? What would you do differently if you tried this again?

Now predict

Kavita and Jasmin want to buy some plants to grow for the school fair later in the year. They are going to a garden centre. What advice can you give them? How can they choose plants that will grow well?

- Use a computer program to record your results. Draw a chart of your results or Class 3's results. What sort of chart would be best? Look at the charts in your class. Match them to the right plant.
- What does your chart tell you? In your class, which plant grew least? Which plant grew most? Why? Was this what you expected?
- Use your plants, photographs and charts to make a presentation to another class, telling them what you found out.



Large plants can grow from tiny seeds