

Basic Plant Structure

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

Most plants are built from three basic parts: roots, stem, and leaves. That is true for a dandelion in a sidewalk crack and for a giant oak tree. Those parts come in an enormous variety of shapes and sizes. Each variation is called a modification.

Apparent exceptions usually are not. A pine needle and a lily pad are both leaves, and grass has a stem so short it is easy to miss. A cactus has leaves too. They are its spines. Its fat green stem does the food-making job that leaves usually do.

Roots come in two main patterns: a spreading fibrous network, or a single thick tap root that also stores food. Pull up a clump of grass and you will see a tangle of thin roots. A carrot is a tap root. The part you eat is food the plant packed away for itself.

Activity 1: Word Hunt

Look back at the reading. Find four verbs and write them on the lines.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Activity 2: Sentence Scramble

These words are mixed up. Put them in order to make a sentence. Start with a capital letter and end with a period.

1. modification / variation / called / each / a / is

2. apparent / are / exceptions / usually / not

Activity 3: Because, But, So

Finish the sentence three ways. After because, tell why. After but, tell something different or surprising. After so, tell what happened next.

A cactus has spines **because**

A cactus has spines, **but**

A cactus has spines, **so**

Activity 4: Sentence Scramble

These words are mixed up. Put them in order to make a sentence. Start with a capital letter and end with a period.

1. a / a / carrot / tap / root / is

2. pine / are / leaves / needles

3. cactus / in / water / its / stem / stores / a
