

Unusual plant pots

Activity overview

30 mins+

Year 1 – 2

Science topics:

Plants, Materials

You will need:

Cardboard tubes, boxes, sheets of newspaper, other building materials (tape, glue, elastic bands), soil or compost, seeds (sunflower or cress seeds provide fast results and are easy to grow).

Get creative with recycling materials into unusual plant pots for seedlings!

Run the activity in 5 steps

- 1. This hands-on making activity will put pupils' knowledge to the test and improve their ability to work as a team.** Sometimes you have to solve a problem on the spot. Explain that today the class will need to make something using just the materials provided. Discuss what pupils think they might learn from doing this.
- 2.** Explain that they will have 15 minutes to create a plant pot.
- 3.** At the end, it's peer review time. Discuss each other's creations as a class. Encourage pupils to provide kind, specific and helpful feedback on how each other's creations might be refined.
- 4.** Allow five more minutes and give everyone a chance to act on their feedback by refining their creation.

5. When time is up, survey the final creations. Discuss what they've made and how their creations have changed as a result of the feedback. What have they learned from swapping things?

Top Tips: [How to run Problem Solvers activities](#)

Background science

Most plant pots are made from plastic, but plastic uses valuable natural resources and waste plastic causes lots of problems in the environment. What else could be used to grow plants from seed?

To get your children thinking about their pots, why not show your children a sprouting timelapse, this [Growing seed video](#) will help them visualise what happens in a plant pot!

Take it further

Add in an extra challenge to this learning by asking your class to swap their creations halfway through! Discuss with the class what might happen as the plant begins to grow. What other objects could be used to grow plants in?

See the Royal Horticultural Society's [website](#) as well as [Science and Plants for Schools](#) for advice and tips on how to start growing seeds.

Related activities

ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT

Curious crown

Take a much closer look at this familiar object. Can your...

THE BIG QUESTION**Which is the bendiest?**

Plan a fun enquiry and get your class thinking like scientists.

ODD ONE OUT**Winter Scenes**

Put your class' observation skills to the test with these t...

WHAT IF...**Your school banned paper?**

Challenge the class to think about the suitability of paper and...

ODD ONE OUT**Timewarp plants**

Put your class' observation skills to the test with these t...

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