

Tree Water Works



Objective

Identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants and investigate the way water is transported within plants.



Equipment

- 4 Tree Water Works Activity Sheets.
- 8 red hoops, 8 blue hoops, 8 yellow hoops and 12 green hoops
- 36 bean bags



Preparation

- Split the children into 4 appropriate groups, taking into consideration ability and space available. Provide each group with a name e.g. Oak, Maple, Beech & Birch.
- Seat each group down in a line behind a cone and provide each team with a Tree Water Works Activity Sheet and the 9 corresponding-coloured hoops.



Instructions

- Ask the teams to construct / replicate the image on the example sheet with their hoops. Ensure that the bottom hoops are 2 – 3 meters in front of their group's cone.
- Describe what each coloured hoop represents: blue hoops - Roots; red hoops - Trunk; yellow hoops - Branches; green hoops - Leaves. Discuss with the group how the tree takes in and transports water, from the roots to the trunk, on to the branches and finally to the leaves.
- Distribute 36 beanbags between the four groups (9 to each team). Tell the group that the bean bags are going to represent water and it will be their job to fill up the tree, starting at the roots and working their way up.
- The first child at the front of the line stands behind the group's cone and tries to throw (under arm) a bean bag into the first hoop (roots). If they are successful, they move to the back of the line and the next person tries to throw a bean bag into the next hoop. If they miss, they run out and collect the stray bean bag and bring it back to their group, joining the back of the line. This continues until all hoops have been filled with a bean bag. The group must work up through the tree, starting with roots, moving to trunk, branches and finishing with leaves.
- The team that fills their tree first is the winner. This activity can be adapted into a relay race by moving the tree further away from the groups and having children run out and deposit the bean bags by hand.



Other information

- For younger children, encourage them to run out and place the beanbags in the hoops
- Reduce or increase the size of the throwing area depending on the ability within the group
- Children should be familiar with the different parts of the tree / plant that make up its basic structure and the job they do in helping the tree / plant survive and grow.

