





Topic:		Title: Function of a plant stem
Plants	Age 7-8	
Working Scientifically		Concentual Knowledge
Working Scientifically		Conceptual Knowledge
Review: Use straightforward		Investigate the way in which water is
scientific evidence to answer		transported within plants
questions or to support their findings		

Assessment Focus

- Can children make careful observations?
- Can children use observations to suggest how water is transported?

Activity Today we are botanists.

Show children a complete head of celery and ask them to name the parts (noting the stem). Explain to the children that they are going to put the celery stem upright in a shallow container of water coloured with food colouring. (Remind to be careful with colouring). What could happen? Make careful observation before placing in water e.g. draw and label. Return to celery later (e.g. 1hr) carefully observe what has happened e.g. labelled drawings of whole and cut celery.

Adapting the activity

Support: Draw a group explanation

Extension: Predict what will happen when the stem is split in two and each

end placed in a different coloured food dye.

Other idea: Take accurate measurements of the height of coloured water at

time intervals and record findings in a table or line graph.

Key Questions

- What can you see inside the celery?
- What is happening to the coloured water?
- What do you think will happen if the stem is split in 2 and placed in different coloured waters?
- Do you think the leaves will change colour? If so, why?
- What has happened to the inside of the celery?



Assessment Indicators

Not yet met: Can draw/say what has happened simply, e.g. the colour went up.

Meeting: Observes what has happened and can make suggestions, e.g. *I know there are tubes in the stem, the water goes up the stem and it might go up to the leaves if I leave it for longer.*

Exceeding: Identify and explain results using scientific vocabulary, e.g. water travels upwards in the stem and over a longer time it would reach the top of the plant, this shows there are tubes in the stem and water stays in its tube.