READING MATERIAL

Read About External Plant Parts

EXTERNAL PLANT PARTS DEFINITION

Plants have external parts that help them grow, survive and reproduce. These parts include the stem, leaves, flower, fruits and roots. Many plant parts are eaten by people.

To better understand how external plant parts work...

LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

The stem is an external plant part.

The stem is strong and helps hold the plant up. It also lets water and nutrients flow up to the leaves. Some examples of stems we eat are celery, asparagus, and sugar cane.

Leaves are an external plant part.

Leaves collect sunlight and make food for the plant. Leaves come in many different shapes and sizes, but most leaves are flat and green. Some examples of leaves we eat are mint and spinach.

Flowers are an external plant part.

Flowers are the parts of plants that make seeds and fruits. Some examples of flowers we eat are lavender and roses. Flowers are colorful so they can attract animals like hummingbirds and bees.

Fruits are an external plant part.

Fruits are the part of plants that protect seeds and helps the seed get moved from place to place by an animal. Animals like to eat fruit because most of them taste sweet.

Roots are an external plant part.

Roots absorb water and minerals from the soil and hold the plant in the ground so it does not fall over. Some examples of roots we eat are potatoes, carrots and beets.

EXTERNAL PLANT PARTS VOCABULARY

External Part	A part on the outside of a plant.

Flower	The part of a plant that makes seeds.
Fruit	The part of a plant that has seeds inside.
Leaf	The part of a plant that uses sunlight to make food.
Reproduce	To make more plants (animals also reproduce).
Root	The plant part that holds a plant in the ground and helps it get water from the soil.

QUESTIONS ABOUT EXTERNAL PLANT PARTS

What do we mean by external parts of a plant?

External parts are the parts that are on the outside of plants.

What is the function of seeds?

Seeds help the plants reproduce because they can grow into a new plant.

What characteristics do plants have that show they are alive?

They grow, they need nutrients (food and water) and they make more plants (reproduce).

What are the main parts of a plant?

The main parts of a plant are roots, stem, leaves, flowers and fruit.

What is the purpose of each of the plant parts?

The roots anchor the plant in the soil and help it take in water. The stem holds up the plant and carries water to the leaves. The leaves use sunlight to make food for the plant. The flowers produce seeds to make new plants. Fruits serve as a protective covering for seeds and help the seed get moved somewhere else by an animal (see video about pollination and seed dispersal).

What are some parts of plants that you eat? Give examples.

Some stems you eat are celery, asparagus, and sugar cane; some roots are carrots, beets, and potatoes; some leaves are mint and spinach; some flowers are lavender and roses, and some fruits are tomatoes, apricots and dragon fruit.