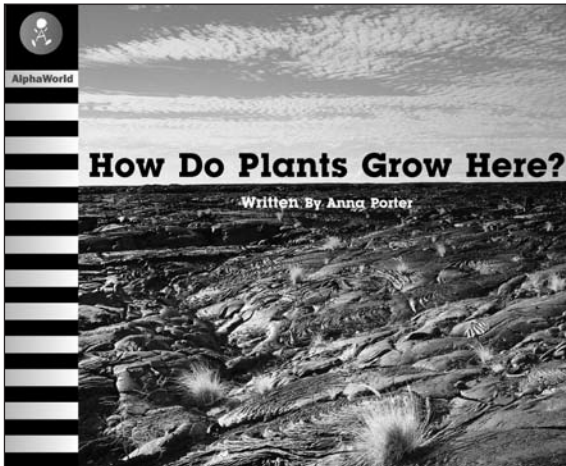


How Do Plants Grow Here?



Topic: Plants/Environment/Science

Curriculum link: Natural Science

Text type: Explanation

Reading level: 19

Word count: 489

Vocabulary: deserts, energy, grow, lava, mangroves, plants, roots, salt, seeds, soil, stems, stores, survive, thaw, volcanoes

Possible literacy focus:

- Understanding the text at a literal level: What do plants need to survive in different locations?
- Locating compound words: rainwater, seaweed.
- Understanding the meaning of words such as energy, survive.
- Reading with fluency and accuracy.

Follow-up activities

Understanding text structure: Explanation

Explore the structure of an explanation with the children. This type of text usually presents a general statement about the topic (introduction) followed by specific explanations. A conclusion sums up the topic. Show children the contents page and how it helps us to locate information. Point out the headings on each page and why we need them. Explore the index and its use.

Discuss and reflect

After reading the book, ask the children:

How do plants grow in rocky places?

How can some plants grow in salty water?

Why can't all plants grow in salty water?

How does seaweed grow under water?

How do plants that live in the desert get enough water to survive?

Why do plants growing in very cold places grow in low clumps?

Compound words

Write the following words on the board: rainwater, seaweed.

What do you notice about these two words?

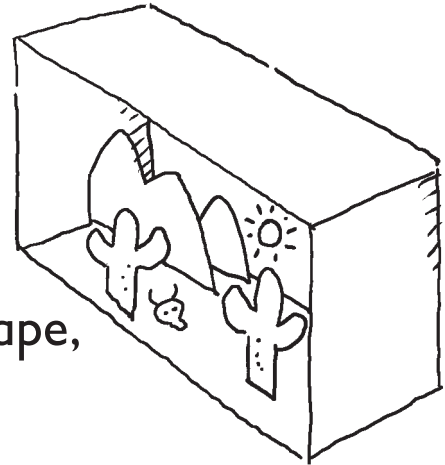
If the children do not notice that they are compound words, rewrite the words as follows:
rain + water, sea + weed

Show the children that compound words are made up of smaller words. Now ask the children to hunt for other compound words in the text. List these on the board. The children could write sentences using these words and illustrate them with their own drawings. They could also include other compound words that they find or know.

Diorama

You will need:

old boxes, scraps of material, cellophane, crepe paper, cardboard cylinders, matchsticks, string, sticky tape, scissors, glue, paper, pencils



1. Pick one of the regions described in the book.
2. Make a diorama of this environment.
3. Include plants that grow there.
4. Write labels for the plants in your diorama.
5. Attach the labels to your diorama.
6. Display your diorama in the classroom.

Word tree

You will need:

paper, pencil

1. Think about some of the plants in *How Do Plants Grow Here?*
2. Write the name of a place or a plant at the bottom of a sheet of paper.
3. On the line above, write two words about the place or plant.
4. Keep going until you have written as many things as you can about your topic.

cactus plants grow here
very little water
dry, hot
desert

Plant Habitats

Describe these different environments.







Make a glossary

Write a definition for each of these words.

Glossary

Word	Definition
absorb	<hr/> <hr/>
energy	<hr/> <hr/>
harsh	<hr/> <hr/>
lava	<hr/> <hr/>
molten	<hr/> <hr/>
surface	<hr/> <hr/>
survive	<hr/> <hr/>
thaw	<hr/> <hr/>

Instructions Explain to the children that a glossary is a list of words in alphabetical order, found at the end of some books. It explains what the words mean.