

During Unit 1 of this module, students will build their background knowledge of plants by researching the unit guiding question, “How do plants grow and survive?” Students research this question by engaging in activities that provoke wonder and curiosity about how we get the fruits, flowers, and vegetables that we enjoy. I am writing today to explain what your student will be learning, describe the activities that will support this learning, and suggest how to support this learning at home. I hope that you will plan to join us at the end of our deep study to celebrate the students’ learning!

What will your student learn?

Students will study the topic of plants, with a focus on learning about plant stages. The learning will focus on these ideas:

- Plants need light and water to grow.
- All plants go through the same stages as they grow.

Students will also practice these reading foundation skills:

- Identify and write the sound and spelling pattern for words ending in the C-le (consonant plus -le) syllable type.
- Segment (break apart) and identify the syllables within words, and blend them back together.
- Decode (read) and encode (write) two-syllable words.

HOW will your student learn?

Throughout the unit, your student will read, think, listen, talk, write, draw, and ask questions about the topic of how plants grow and survive. Students will participate in these activities, among others, to build their literacy skills:

- Listening to read-alouds of a variety of texts about plants.
- Participating in “open sorts” of plant parts to decide how they are related to each other.
- Singing songs about plants.
- Engaging in collaborative conversations with classmates.
- Writing and drawing about plants parts.
- Asking and answering questions about what plants need to grow and survive.

What can you do to SUPPORT your student’s learning at home?

Here are a few activities that you can do at home with your student to support his or her learning:

- Ask your student to talk with you about this question: How do plants grow and survive?
- Read books and sing songs about plants from home or at the library.
- Identify different types of plants around your home, explain what helps them grow, and help your student learn how to care for them.
- Encourage your student to read the weekly Decodable Reader or a letter book to you every night.
- Practice reading and spelling words ending in C-le (e.g., *paddle*, *bubble*, *little*).