

Roots and Stems

Week 12 — Monday | *Parts of a Plant*

Reading Time

Plants have parts, just like you do. Each part has a special job. Today we will learn about two parts. They are the roots and the stem.

Roots grow down into the soil. You usually cannot see them. Roots have two big jobs. First, they hold the plant in place. They keep it from falling over or blowing away. Second, roots absorb water from the soil. Absorb means to soak up. Roots also soak up nutrients that help the plant grow.

The stem grows up from the roots. The stem also has two big jobs. First, it supports the plant. It holds up the leaves and flowers. Second, the stem is like a straw. It transports water from the roots to the rest of the plant. Transport means to carry or move. A tree trunk is a very big, strong stem!

Reading Questions

1. What are the two jobs of roots?

2. What are the two jobs of a stem?

3. What does absorb mean?

4. Why is a stem like a straw? Explain your thinking.

Vocabulary Grid

Write a definition or draw a picture for each word.

Roots

Stem

Absorb

Transport

Support

Trunk

Root Job or Stem Job? Sort

Read each job. Write it in the correct box.

Root Jobs	Stem Jobs

Jobs to sort: Holds the plant in the soil, Holds up the leaves, Soaks up water, Carries water up the plant, Soaks up nutrients, Holds up the flowers

True or False — Circle Your Answer

- ☐ 1. Roots grow down into the soil.
- ☐ 2. The stem holds up the leaves and flowers.
- ☐ 3. Roots make food for the plant using sunlight.
- ☐ 4. A tree trunk is a very big stem.
- ☐ 5. Water moves from the roots up through the stem.
- ☐ 6. A plant without roots would stay firmly in place.

Drawing Time

Draw roots under the soil	Draw a tall, strong stem	Draw water moving up a stem

Compare: Roots and Stems

Question	Roots	Stem
Does it grow up or down?		
Can you usually see it?		
Does it touch the soil?		
Does it hold up leaves?		

Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: roots stem absorb transports soil support

1. The _____ hold the plant in place.

2. Roots _____ water and nutrients from the soil.

3. The _____ holds up the leaves and flowers.

4. The stem _____ water from the roots to the leaves.

5. Roots grow down into the _____.

6. The stem's job to hold the plant up is called _____.

Root and Stem Hunt

Look at plants in your home or yard. Find these things!

Find This	Where did you find it?	Describe it
A thin, bendy stem		
A thick, woody stem (trunk)		
A root you can see		
A vegetable that is a root (like a carrot)		

Experiment Preview

Coming Wednesday: We will collect real roots and stems from outside. We will study them with a magnifying glass, just like scientists!

Think about it: Where is a good place to find plants near your home?

Write your idea below:
