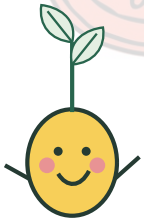
Plant Doctor Clues

Practise looking for clues before deciding what a plant might need.



Little growers, big discoveries

15 MIN | PLANT OBSERVATION AND | AGES 5+ WITH AN ADULT

Grab your kit

A plant to observe, paper and a pencil. You can use your own plant photos instead.

Your discovery mission

1. Look at the whole plant. Describe what you actually see: drooping, yellowing, spots, holes or new growth. Draw one clue.
2. With an adult, gently check the growing material below the surface. Does it feel dry, damp or very wet? Check whether water can drain.
3. Check the plant's position and look under leaves without damaging them. Compare its light and watering conditions with its growing guide.
4. Write one possible explanation and one sensible next check. If you make a change, record it and observe for several days before changing something else.

What did you discover?

The clue I saw: _____
My next check: _____

Draw your discovery

Let's wonder...

Could the same clue have more than one cause? What evidence would help you decide?

NEXT ADVENTURE

Photograph the plant now and again in a few days. Compare new growth as well as the original clue.

Children observe with an adult. Do not taste damaged plants or apply sprays as part of this activity; seek growing advice if the cause stays unclear.