

CONSERVATORY READER: INTRO TO PLANTS



An early view of the Conservatory.

The Garfield Park Conservatory opened in 1908 and is one of the largest conservatories in the United States. It has 2 acres of indoor greenhouses and 10 acres of outdoor gardens. The indoor greenhouses are 8 rooms that grow mostly tropical and desert plants.

Home to venus fly traps, tall palms, and chocolate trees, the Conservatory is a place to learn and explore!



WHAT ARE THE PARTS OF A PLANT?

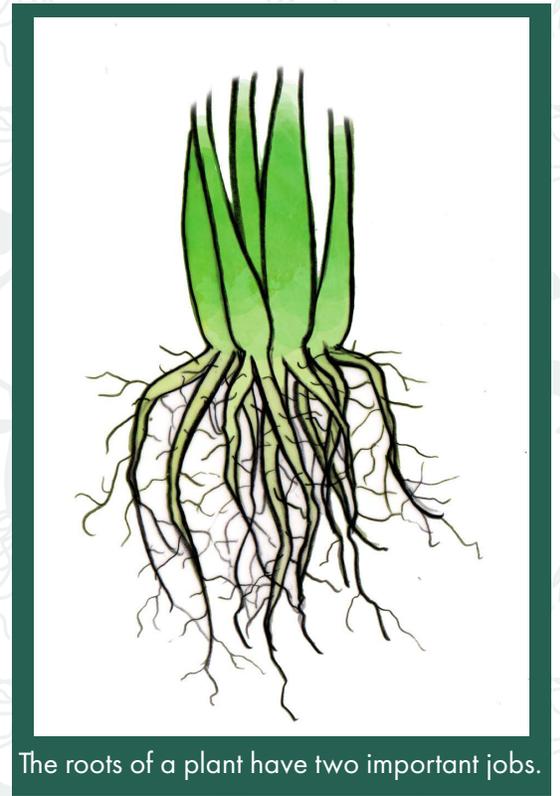
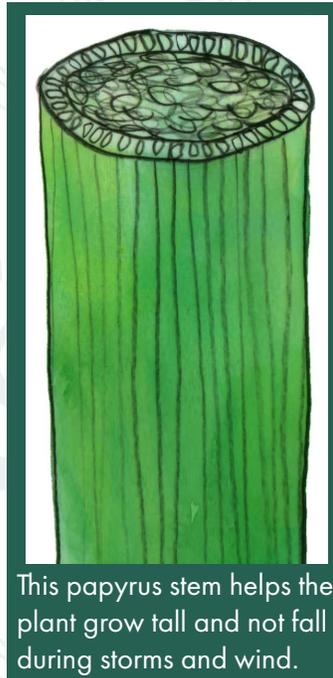
Every plant looks different, but most plants have the same parts! Most plants have **roots**, a **stem**, **leaves**, **fruit**, and **flowers**. Each part of a plant does something important.



Can you name the different parts of this plant?

The **roots** of a plant have a few jobs. They hold the plant firm in the ground, just like the basement of a building helps it stay in one place during strong storms and winds. The roots also bring in nutrients from the soil.

The **stem** of a plant brings the food from the roots to the rest of the plant. The stem also helps the plant stand strong, just like your bones help you!



The **leaves** of a plant use the light from the sun to make food. The **flowers** of a plant use bright colors and sweet smells to bring animals to the plant. The animals help **pollinate** the plant by spreading the pollen on the flower to other flowers. Once the flower is pollinated, **fruit** and **seeds** grow!

The fruit keeps the seeds safe. Once the seeds fall on the ground, they might grow into a new plant! All of the parts of a plant are important. Come visit the Conservatory to see plant parts in action!

INTRO TO PLANTS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

-  What might happen to a plant if it didn't have roots?
-  What might happen to a plant if it didn't have a stem?
-  Why do you think some plants have big leaves and some plants have small leaves?
-  What color flowers do you think we'll see at the Conservatory? What do you think they will smell like?
-  What fruit do you like? Have you ever found a seed in fruit you were eating?
-  What questions do you have about plant parts?
Remember them or write them down, and ask the staff at the Conservatory!

School groups are welcome at the Conservatory Tuesday through Friday from 9 am-1 pm. For more information visit garfieldconservatory.org/group-visits or email groups@garfieldpark.org.

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