

# Activity—How Tall are Plants?

**Standard IV**

Students will gain an understanding of Life Science through the study of changes in organisms over time and the nature of living things.

**Objective 2**

Living things change and depend upon their environment to satisfy their basic needs.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

Knowing In Science: Understandg the nature of science.

Content Connections: Language Art, Math, Visual art

## Background Information

Height is a physical characteristic of plants. It is determined by the growing conditions that the plant receives such as the amount of sunlight, water, quality of soil, and temperature. Growth is a characteristic of plants that can be easily measured.

## Invitation to Learn

Use a non-standard unit such as unifix cubes, paperclips, or string to measure plant growth.

## Instructional Procedures

1. Demonstrate how to measure the height of a plant using unifix cubes.
2. Divide students into groups and give each group a plant to observe and measure using unifix cubes.
3. Record height on chart using cut out squares to match unifix cubes.
4. As a class, put the plants' height on a class chart and compare.
5. Students will write and illustrate one or more conclusions drawn from the class chart.

## Possible Extensions/Adaptations

Measure plants using another nonstandard unit.

## Assessment Suggestions

Teacher observes group activities and evaluates journal entries.

### Materials

- various plants
- unifix cubes
- discovery journals
- pencils
- chart paper

### ***Additional Resources***

*Look at this Tree* by Susan Canizares

*All Kinds of Plants* by Sandar Iversen

*From Flowers to Fruit* by Fred and Jeanne Biddulph

*Plant Parts* by Amy Jo

*Plants and Seeds* by Colin Walker

*Where are the Seeds?* by Pauline Cartwright

### ***Family Connections***

Share discovery journal at home. Measure plants at home using nonstandard units of measure.