

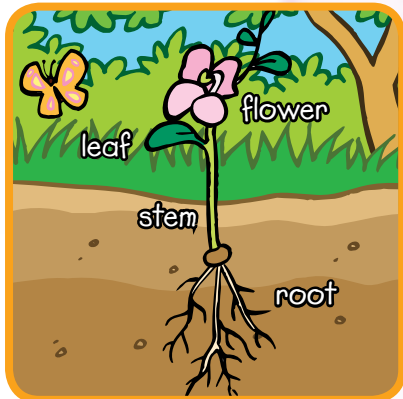
Olivia's clever celery!



The celery we eat is the stem part of a plant. It contains vitamin C to help us keep healthy. One stem counts as one of our 5 A DAY.



Celery can be really clever – all plants can in fact! Follow these instructions to see what happens when you leave celery in coloured water.



Equipment

- celery • chopping knife • chopping board
- large plastic cup or glass • 1 bottle of food colouring (darker colours work better) • walnut shells • nutcracker
- paper • felt tips • cocktail sticks
- strong glue or plasticine



First, ask an adult to chop off a stem of celery. Make sure there are some leaves at the top of the stem.



Next, fill three quarters of the cup with water. Add a couple of drops of food colouring.



Now stand the celery in the cup of coloured water. It will look a bit like a desert island.

You can make a pirate ship to float on the water next to your celery desert island! Ask an adult to cut a walnut in half using a nutcracker. Make a square sail out of paper and draw a picture on it. ⇨⇨⇨



⇨⇨⇨ Carefully poke a cocktail stick through the sail – you may need an adult to help with this. Glue the stick onto the shell, or use some plasticine to hold it in place. Now you have made your pirate ship!



Gently put the ship on the water surface. Leave your celery desert island overnight and watch what happens. You could make a chart to record your observations after every few hours.



By the next day the leaves of your celery stem will have changed colour! This is because the coloured water travels up tubes in the stem to the leaves. This is how the plant drinks water.

As the celery has been left uncovered overnight it's best not to eat it.

