

Session aim:

To allow pupils to understand the importance of planting tree seeds carefully and the requirements of tree seeds to grow into trees

Activity:

Use pupil worksheet 'Planting your silver birch seeds' to learn the process of planting a tree seed.

Use pupil worksheet 'Growing healthy trees' to distinguish the difference between a tree seed that is planted well and will grow healthily and one that has been planted badly and will struggle to grow.

Extension activities

- Ideally this activity is followed by a hands-on experience of tree planting. This could be at an organised tree planting, or planting trees in the school grounds
- Pupils could find out more information about what other plants need to help them grow. They could then explore the similarities and differences between those and the needs of a tree to grow.

National Curriculum links:

1. Life Processes

3. Green Plants as Organisms

Pupils should be taught: growth and nutrition

1. to investigate the effect on the growth of plants of changing their conditions, e.g. *light, water, temperature, nutrients, the available space, the growing medium*
2. that plants need light to produce food for growth, and the importance of the leaf in this process
3. that the root anchors the plant, and that water and nutrients are taken in through the root and transported through the stem to other parts of the plant.

SEEDS TO TREES

KS2 Science

PUPIL WORKSHEET

HELPING SILVER BIRCH TREE SEEDS GROW WELL — PLANTING YOUR SLIVER BIRCH SEED

Draw a picture in each of the boxes below to explain the process:

<p>1. Put a few stones in the bottom of a pot to help the water drain out.</p>	<p>2. Put compost or soil in the pot until 2/3 full. Water the soil.</p>	<p>3. Sprinkle a pinch of birch seeds on top of the soil (the seedlings can be thinned out when they germinate).</p>
<p>4. Cover the seeds with a layer of soil so that they are hidden.</p>	<p>5. Place a plastic bag over the pot and fasten it tightly. Put the pot in a sunny place.</p>	<p>6. It could take a few months for your seeds to start growing. As soon as the seedlings appear, remove the plastic bag. Water the seedlings once or twice a week.</p>
<p>7. If you have more than one seedling in each pot, gently move each seedling to a new pot, taking care not to damage any part of it. This will give your trees space to grow properly.</p>	<p>8. In the summer put your seedling outside if you can.</p>	<p>9. In autumn, plant it in the ground where you want it to grow. Dig a hole bit a bigger than the pot. Gently lift out the seedling with its soil from the pot and place in the hole. Firm the soil down around the roots and water well.</p>