



SCIENCE INVESTIGATION · PLANTS

Do plants grow better in the light?

England national curriculum · Year 3 · working scientifically

Our question

Does a plant on the windowsill grow taller than the same plant in a dark cupboard?

My prediction — what do you think will happen, and why?

What we will CHANGE

**where the pot lives —
windowsill (light) or
cupboard (dark)**

— and nothing else. That is what
makes it a fair test.

What we will MEASURE

**the height of each plant
(cm), once a week**

What we will KEEP THE SAME

- the same kind of seed
- the same pot and soil
- the same amount of water
- planted on the same day

Equipment

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 2 pots with soil | ☐ seeds (cress or beans work well) |
| ☐ ruler | ☐ water |
| ☐ a sunny windowsill and a dark cupboard | |

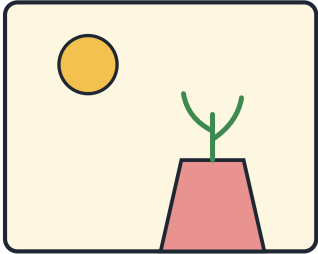
Running it: Runs over 3–4 weeks: two minutes of measuring each week. Patience is the experiment.

Keep it safe: Wash hands after touching soil and seeds.



STEP 2 · DO IT AND RECORD

Our results



windowsill — light



cupboard — dark

everything else about the two pots stays the same

Week	Windowsill plant (cm)	Cupboard plant (cm)	What I noticed
1			
2			
3			
4			

Units live in the headings, so the boxes only need numbers. If a result looks odd, try that one again — scientists call it a repeat reading.



STEP 3 · DRAW THE PICTURE OF YOUR RESULTS

Bar chart of our results

A bar chart suits results you can compare side by side. Number the axis in equal steps and give every bar the same width.

Height (cm) — what we measured



Week — what we changed

What does your chart show? Say it in one sentence.



STEP 4 · WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

Our conclusion

I found out that...

I think this happened because...

My results show...

How did it go?

What went well...

What I would change next time...

A new question I could investigate...
