



Growing moss

BOX NOTICE

Name of the activity	Growing moss
Activity duration	1h
Material needed	Growing moss box, four glasses per box, water, soil, a thick tissue to cover some of the glasses
Number of pupils involved (per box)	You may involve the whole class with this box. You may also divide your class into two groups that will each create their own box to compare the results

Step 1: Storytelling

Tell the story to your class. What do your pupils think the activity will be about?

Step 2: Preparation

Start by explaining your pupils what they are about to create. What do they already know about plants? About moss, in particular? Have they already seen moss, and if yes, where? Why is the moss depicted in the story as maidens who thread a giant carpet?

Step 3: Creating the experiment

Make sure that your pupils understand that this experiment will be quite slow: observing the first results will take a few days, which is long enough for them to start writing hypotheses.



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As they create the various environmental conditions (adding soil and water to some of the glasses), they may write hypotheses about which ones they think will grow, if any, and which ones will not.

Step 4: The sequence

Complete the sequence of your choice with your class. We suggest you carry them out a few days after starting the experiments so that the results are visible.

Step 5: The moss box

In order to create a sustainable moss box that your pupils can take care of during the whole year, you may use the instructions from the Creation of the elements file. Make sure to have a big enough glass (at least, transparent) container to let the light in. You may also ask your pupils to decorate with rocks for example!

Step 6: Clear water

In order to complete the last activity of sequence 2, place some dirt in three pipes. Cut an opening on both ends of the pipes, so that you can pour water in and watch it come out. You may recycle some old gutters for this activity. Leave one with dirt only, then put a bit of moss in a second one and add more moss to the third. Give some time to the moss to take hold of the space, then pour water in the pipes.

The water should come out clear from the pipe with the most moss, as the plant held the dirt in place. On the contrary, the water that comes out of the pipe with no moss will carry a lot of dirt. And, indeed, plants are often used as a natural barrier to prevent landslides!



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