



## Do Plants like Salty Water? - Teacher's Notes

This activity ties in well with some of the soils activities mentioned earlier in this resource in that it asks students to consider what plants need to grow. You can firstly discuss with students the difference between seawater and the water that comes out of our tap. Why wouldn't we want to drink seawater? Because it's salty. Can plants grow if the water we give them is salty? Let's try an experiment!

There are a couple of ways to approach this experiment. You could use some established plants or seedlings in pots, watering one with tap water and the other with salty water. You may even like to extend the experiment using more plants and a range of concentrations of salty water. Ask students to observe the growth and general appearance or health of the plants over a week or so.



Another approach is to try growing alfalfa or other seeds on cotton wool. Soak a large piece of cotton wool in tap water, place it on a saucer or container lid then sprinkle seeds over the cotton wool. Put the saucer on a sunny windowsill and keep the cotton wool damp as the seeds sprout. Repeat the same set up, substituting salty water for the tap water and get students to observe how each lot of seeds grow.

