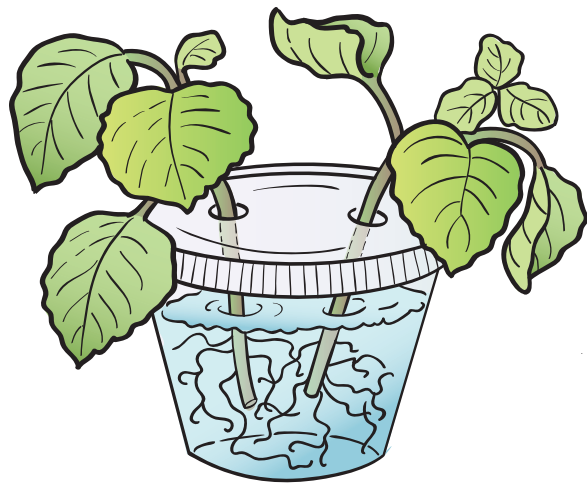
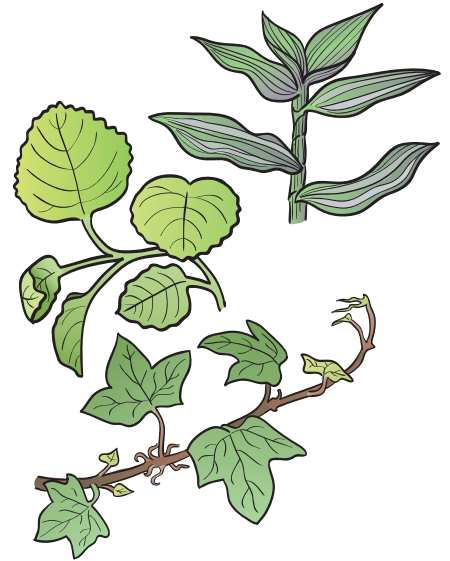


INV. 2 ACTIVITY—GROWING PLANTS FROM STEMS

Review

If your child had been learning in school we would have made plants from old ones by taking cuttings from common household plants, putting the stems in water, and observing the growth of roots over time. Some plants that work well for this are English ivy, pothos, and plants in the mint family (including coleus and Sweedish ivy). In another investigation we also would have taken pieces of potato and planted them in soil. These are great activities to do from home. Work with what you have. If you do not have these plants in your home, or any potatoes with eyes on them, often a neighbor will have some you and your child could have.

The Focus Question: *How can you make a new plant from an old one?*



Investigation

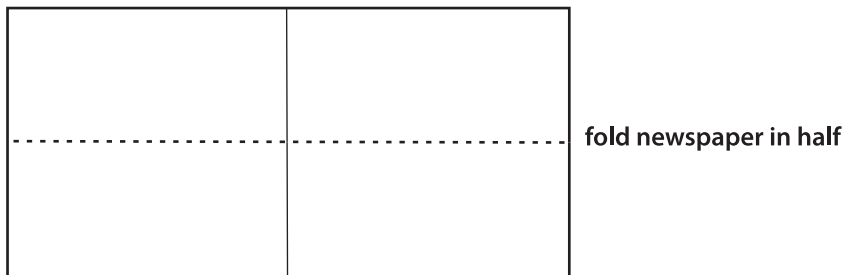
1. Look around your home and see what you have. Decide if you would like to try and start a new plant from cutting stems with leaves from some common household plants, or plants you may have in your yard. Or if you would rather use a potato to try and grow a plant in soil. Or try both.
2. If taking the cuttings, you can put them in a cup and watch where the roots grow from. If you have iron in your water, consider using bottled water.
3. If you decide to plant parts of a potato, the adult will cut the part of a potato with an eye on it. Ideally you plant three pieces in one clear and clean 1/2 liter container, like an empty and clean salsa container or take out container. Fill the container with soil and gently pack it down. Push the potato down so it is below the surface of the soil. You can gather some soil from outside if you do not have any.
4. Draw what you decide to do in your notebook and make observations/drawings over time. Keep the soil moist but not too wet.
5. Once you have a good set of roots on your plant cuttings, then you can plant them into soil and you have a new plant for your home.
6. Eventually, answer the focus question in your notebook.



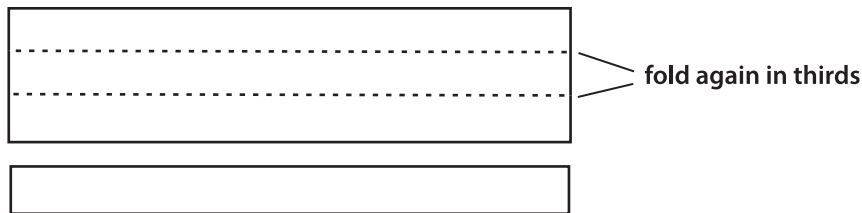
INV. 2 ACTIVITY—MAKING NEWSPAPER POTS (PAGE 1 OF 2)

Make newspaper pots for seedlings

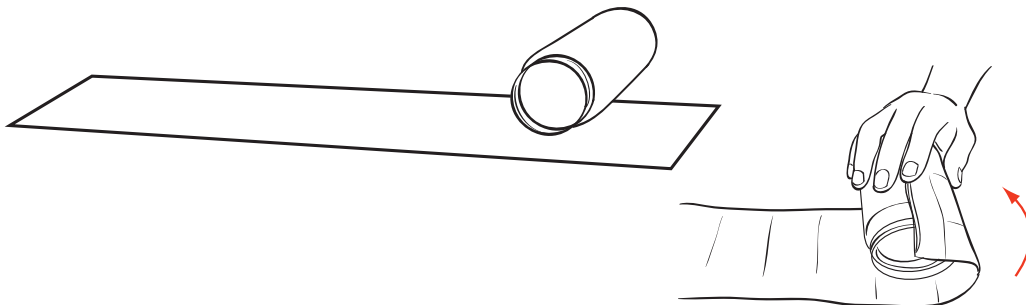
If you are starting seeds indoors for transplanting outdoors, have students make small planter pots from newspaper. Each pot is made from 1 sheet of full-size newspaper and a few pieces of tape. You will need a small jelly jar for forming the pot.



- Fold the newspaper in half the long way.
- Fold the paper again, this time into thirds to form one long strip.



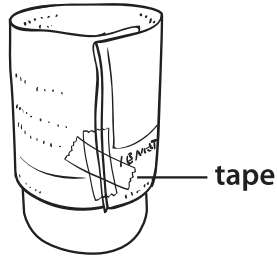
- Place the open end of the jelly jar on top of the newspaper strip so that at least half of the jar is below the strip. Roll the newspaper tightly around the jar.



(continued on next page)

INV. 2 ACTIVITY—MAKING NEWSPAPER POTS (PAGE 2 OF 2)

- d. After rolling the newspaper around the jar, secure the roll with a piece of tape.



- e. Tuck the loose end of the newspaper into the open jar.



- f. Wiggle the rolled paper off the jar. Place the closed end of the pot on the table. Reach inside and push against the crumpled newspaper to make a flat bottom for the pot. If necessary, secure the bottom with a small piece of tape.

