

Plants

Germination

Germination is when a seed starts to grow into a plant. Seeds on their own or in a packet bought at the garden centre have not germinated yet. They need to be planted to have air, water and some warmth to start to grow – or germinate. First the seed will crack open as it starts to grow and the first thing to be seen (under or over the ground) is a tiny, green shoot. That tells us that the seed is germinating.

Roots

The roots of a plant have a few jobs. One important job is to collect water and nutrients from the soil (or whatever it is growing in). Another job is to keep the plant upright and stable. If the roots are not very strong, the plant might not stay in the soil or it may fall over. Tree roots do the same job, but are sometimes so strong that they can cause damage to walls, roads and buildings. The length of some tree roots is often longer than its height!



Fertilisation

This is what happens when the male and female parts of the flower have mixed. The pollen from the male part of the flower lands on the stigma at the top of the female part of the flower. The flower is now able to make seeds for new plants.



1. ‘...keep the plant upright and stable.’

What do you think the word stable means in this sentence?



2. Summarise the main point of the first paragraph in one short sentence.



3. Why do you think the author used an exclamation mark in the second paragraph?



4. What are the three things that plants need in order to start to grow?

Plants Answers

1. ‘...keep the plant upright and stable.’ What do you think the word stable means in this sentence?

Stable means, in this sentence, that the roots keep the plant steady or secure.

2. Summarise the main point of the first paragraph in one short sentence.

Accept any reasonable attempt of summarising the first paragraph as long as it is one short sentence, for example:

‘When a plant has air, water and warmth, it will germinate.’

‘A seed germinates when it gets what it needs when planted.’

3. Why do you think the author used an exclamation mark in the second paragraph?

Accept any reasonable answers relating to disbelief about the fact, e.g.

The author used an exclamation mark because the fact in that sentence is unbelievable / shocking.

Because the author is surprised about the fact.

4. What are the three things that plants need in order to start to grow?

Only accept the following answer: ‘Plants need air, water and (some) warmth to start to grow’. All three aspects are required for the mark.