

Seeds to trees

Notes and planting instructions

This activity will allow pupils to understand the importance of planting tree seeds carefully and what tree seeds need in order to grow into trees.

Activity:

Use this worksheet to learn the process of planting a tree seed.

Follow the guidance for 'Growing healthy trees' to distinguish the difference between a tree seed that is planted well and will grow healthily and one that has been planted badly and will struggle to grow.

Extension activities

- Ideally this activity is followed by a hands-on experience of tree planting. This could be at an organised tree planting, or planting trees in the school grounds.
- Pupils could find out more information about what other plants need to help them grow. They could then explore the similarities and differences between those and the needs of a tree to grow.

Planting your acorn

Draw a picture in each box to explain the steps.

1. Soak acorns in water overnight.

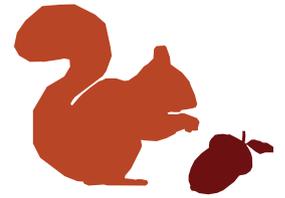
A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a drawing illustrating the first step of planting an acorn.

2. Put a few stones in the bottom of a pot to help the water drain out.

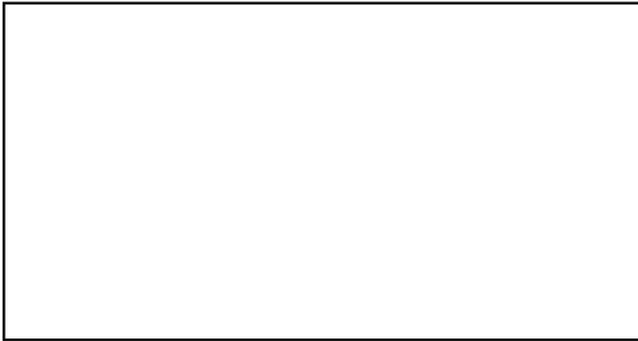
A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a drawing illustrating the second step of planting an acorn.

3. Put compost or soil in the pot until $\frac{2}{3}$ full. Water the soil.

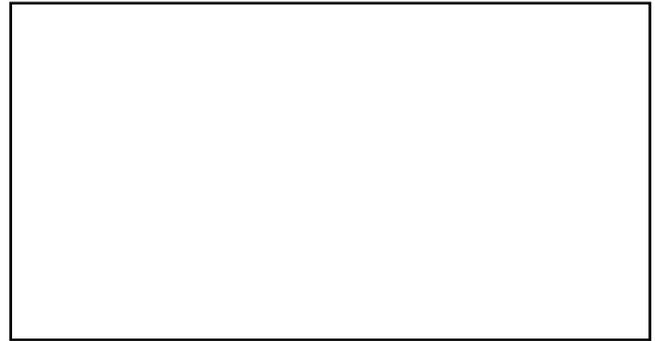
A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a drawing illustrating the third step of planting an acorn.



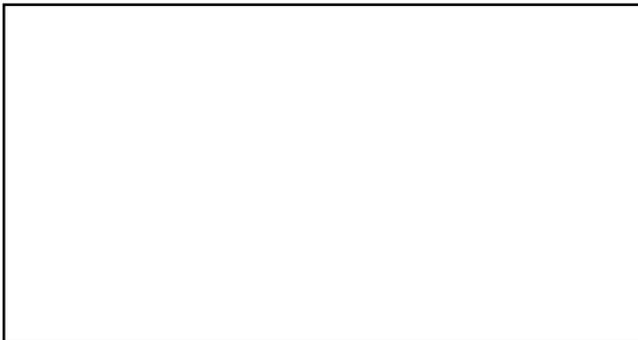
4. Plant one acorn per pot as they need lots of room to grow.



5. Cover the acorn with a layer of soil so that it is hidden.



6. Place a plastic bag over the pot and fasten it tightly. Put the pot in a sunny place.



7. It could take a few months for your acorn to start growing. As soon as the seedling appears, remove the plastic bag. Water the seedling once or twice a week.

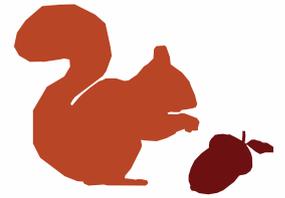


8. In the summer put your seedling outside if you can. In the autumn, plant it in the ground where you want it to grow.



9. Dig a hole a bit larger than the pot. Gently lift out the seedling and its soil from the pot and place in the hole. Water it well.





Growing healthy trees

There are three really important parts of a tree sapling (the name for a young tree) that need to be looked after so that it will grow into a healthy tree.

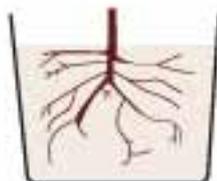
1. Leaves convert energy from the sun to feed the plant. They need to be healthy. Look at the two pictures below and tick the one that you think is healthy.



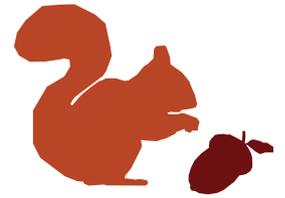
2. The stem of the tree takes water and food up from the roots of the tree to the leaves. If it is damaged, the tree won't grow properly. Take care if you need to change the pot or move your sapling. Look at the two pictures below and tick the one that you think is healthy.



3. The roots of the sapling take up water and food from the earth. If they are squashed up, the tree may not grow properly. Tick the picture below that shows the pot that is best for the sapling to grow in.



All these things are important to remember when growing your tree from a seed into a sapling. Get them right, and remember to water your sapling and it should grow to be healthy and strong.



4. Remembering all the things that you have learnt about planting a tree, draw a picture of a healthy sapling below – with leaves, trunk (stem) and roots.

Note: When a tree gets a bit older, its stem is called a trunk.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a healthy sapling.

The tree might also need the help of a tree stake to keep it upright and make sure that it doesn't get blown over in the wind.

5. Draw a tree stake onto your picture of a tree.

If the tree is planted in a place where rabbits live, it will also need something called a 'rabbit guard' that looks like a tube of plastic. This will help to protect the tree's delicate shoots from being nibbled.

Finally, if you have planted the tree in your school grounds, it will need special help if it is hot in the summer. What do you think this might be?

6. If it is hot in the summer, we will need to the tree regularly.

With thanks to:

The Woodland Trust
www.naturedetectives.org.uk/schools