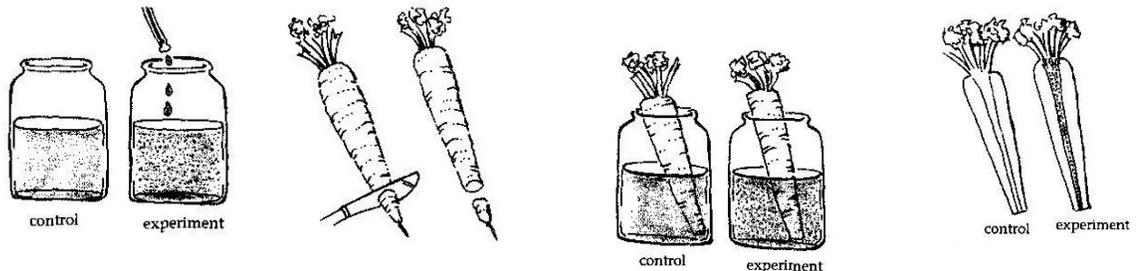


ACTIVITY FIVE: JUST FOR FUN!

An interesting activity to try with your learners as they learn about water!

How do carrots drink?

Carrots are taproots – big roots that grow straight down into the ground. Roots hold the plant in place, keep soil around it, absorb nutrients, and move water from the soil to the leaves.



1. Half fill two glass jars with water. To one jar add 10 drops of red (or blue or green) food colouring – this is the experiment. The plain water jar is the control.
2. Choose two young fresh carrots that still have some leaves at the top. Cut the tips off both carrots and place one in each jar.
3. Put the glass jars on a sunny windowsill and leave for three days so that the carrots can absorb water.
4. Take the carrots out of the jars and slice in half lengthwise. (Don't let the learners do this on their own – it is dangerous!) Compare the insides of the experiment and control carrots.

What is happening?

The coloured water has been pulled up through tiny channels in the centre of the carrot and has stained the carrot red. This is the water transport system that takes water and nutrients up to the leaves. Plants also have a sap transport system that flows both up and down the plant and transports food made in the leaves to the rest of the plant.

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