Science week 11 - To describe the process of asexual reproduction in plants.

What is asexual reproduction? How does it differ from sexual reproduction in plants? Define asexual reproduction, highlighting the ways in which it differs from sexual reproduction.

Show the ways in which bulbs such as daffodils, tubers such as potatoes and plants that produce ‘runners’ such as strawberries all reproduce asexually.

Explain that this form of reproduction is a type of cloning. The following slides go on to explain some of the ways in which humans are cloning plants. What are the reasons for humans cloning plants? Discuss. Show the slides explaining some of the reasons. Did you think of any of these?

Explain that today we will be looking at the stages in the life cycles of a variety of asexually reproducing plants as well as comparing and describing them.

Task: children are to look at the Plant Picture Cards or collect different plants from your garden or whilst out for a walk. Ask children to discuss different ways of grouping them. After this, choose two plants or two of the cards and describe ways in which they are similar or different. Encourage children to use scientific vocabulary in their description, using the Word Bank provided if required.

Extend

Grow your own cloned plants from cuttings! The Growing Cuttings sheet has a number of suggestions for how cuttings from various different plants can be grown at home. Most cuttings will start to show visible root growth within 1-3 weeks.

Children could keep a blog or diary to track the growth of their cuttings, adding drawings, diagrams, photos, measurements, tables and graphs.