

PLANTS (teacher's notes)

ROOTS

About roots:

Carrots are roots: why are they swollen?

- Annual plants complete their cycle of life (germination, growing, form flowers, pollination and producing seeds) in a year.
- Biennial plants complete their cycle of life in two years. Carrots, beetroots... are roots from biennial plants; in the first year the seeds sprout, they grow leaves and a fleshy root (where the plant stores the food made by the leaves) and in the second year the plant uses the stored food to go on growing, to bloom with flowers and to produce seeds. So the carrots and beetroots we eat are harvested the first year.

Activity 3: Label the root on activity 3.

- Main root: A large root with smaller roots.
- Lateral root: The smaller root that grows out of the main root.
- Root hairs: Very small hairs near the tip of each root.
- Tip of the root: The end of every root (covered with a cap to protect it).

You can find a helpful picture in:

<http://www.uic.edu/classes/bios/bios100/labs/plantanatomy.htm>