

PLANTS (teacher's notes)

STEMS

About stems:

- There are different stems such as:
 - Runners or stolons: They are long side shoots such as the ones we find in strawberry plants.
 - Bulbs: They are short and thick stems that grow underground and have swollen leaves around them such as the ones we find in tulips, garlic or onions. Every garlic clove is a swollen leaf and every onion layer is a leaf too.
 - Tubers: They are swollen stems that grow underground such as potatoes.
 - Rhizomes: They are thick stems that grow underground in a horizontal way.
 - Corms:
 - Water-storing stems: They are soft and thick stems that store water such as those in cacti.
- In the web page below you will find photographs and explanations.
<http://www.backyardnature.net/stemtype.htm>

Activity 2: Can a stem help a plant to reach the light?

- **CONCLUSIONS**: The stem grows and finds the light because plants need light to produce their food. Some plant parts are sensitive to light.