

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 6: Why are roots important?

- They prevent the plant from moving.
- They absorb and transport water.
- They absorb and transport minerals.
- Some roots store food (as in swollen tap roots, e.g. carrots).
- Some roots, aerial roots, cling to other plants, walls...