

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 1: Let's compare stems!

A) Ask your pupils to look at a flower stem and the stem/trunk of a tree. Make them realize that the epidermis protects the stems in both plants as our skin protects our bodies.



B)

	A	B
1.- Herbaceous stems are soft.	✓	
2.- Woody stems are strong and hard.		✓