



Teachers' notes

supporting classroom resources and activities

Plant Pest Investigation

Post-reading activity 2:

Pesky plant pests

Key concepts

Students should begin to:

- understand the term 'plant pest'
- understand how plant pests could impact crops, and
- understand how plant pests could impact their lives.

Resources

- Pest images or pest powerpoint

Lesson steps

1. Write the word 'pest' on the board and discuss the word with students. What do they think it means? How did Dr Wheaten explain the term pests to Lily and Sam?
2. Add the word 'plant' in front of 'pest'. Ask students what these words might mean when they are put together.
3. Review what sick plants might look like (activity 3).
4. Explain that plant pests are diseases or insects that make plants sick.
5. Discuss any pests they may have seen in their gardens eating plants. Guide students to think of caterpillars, snails, aphids, beetles, slugs etc.
6. Look at the images of plant pest and discuss the damage these pests do to crops and crop products.
7. Link the damaged crop back to crop products (activity 4) and discuss how the class could be affected by these pests.

Further activities:

1. Complete the pest word search
2. Take a tour of the school garden and try to spot pests.



Pesky plant pests

Find all these words hidden in the word search.

Don't forget to look up, down and across.

The first one has been found for you.



pests ✓	caterpillar	sick
plant	beetle	fruit
rot	maggot	fly

c	a	t	e	r	p	i	l	l	a	r
a	d	g	j	m	p	s	v	p	y	e
s	t	f	l	y	i	l	m	l	o	w
e	e	h	c	t	r	o	p	a	b	s
t	m	a	g	g	o	t	f	n	l	i
k	a	c	e	g	i	k	r	t	s	c
b	e	e	t	l	e	u	y	t	i	k
f	f	f	g	h	i	a	c	c	t	w
s	d	r	p	q	p	e	s	t	s	z
x	t	u	l	k	j	o	f	r	v	h
y	m	i	n	e	e	i	r	o	t	a
s	u	t	s	w	t	e	a	b	m	l