



plants grow kids

SCIENCE FACT SHEET

## Parts of a Tree

### Roots:

The roots main purpose is to hold the tree in the ground and to source the water and nutrients from the soil. As garden lovers we need to make sure there is enough water in the soil through rainfall or watering and enough nutrients in the soil from compost or mulch to ensure the root system is strong and healthy. Most of the time you cannot see the roots of trees but they are there under the ground. When you are digging in the garden you might find some, if you do, try not to damage the roots as they are the key to the survival of plants in your garden.

### Trunk:

The trunk of the tree helps make the tree rigid in the wind and pushes the branches up into the sky so that they can be close to the sun. Inside the trunk is a vascular system that moves water and nutrients up to the leaves and moves food back from the leaves back to the roots so the roots can grow.

### Stems:

The stems branch the leaves out in as many different directions as possible to catch as much sun light as possible. They also have the vascular system that the trunk has.

### Leaves:

Leaves are an amazing part of the tree, they are like little solar panels. They catch as much sunlight as possible and use sunlight, nutrients and carbon dioxide to produce food for the tree. This process is called Photosynthesis. Have you ever noticed plants growing along walls or fences don't have leaves facing the fence, they are all facing outwards towards the light.