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FREE LEARNING NOTES FOR ZAMBIA

GRADE 4 · TERM 3

Science

Plants and Animals

Lesson notes for learners · Competence-Based Curriculum

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Plants and animals are important parts of the environment. Each one plays a role in keeping life going. In this note you will learn why plants and animals matter in daily life and meet the words used in horticulture and crop production.

AFTER THESE NOTES YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO

- Say why plants and animals are important in daily life
- Name the uses of plants and animals: food, shelter, medicine and a balanced environment
- Explain words used in horticulture and crop production

KEY WORDS

Horticulture	Growing fruits, vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants for food, beauty or income.
Ornamental plants	Plants grown mainly for beauty, such as colourful flowers.
Propagation	Growing new plants from seeds or other plant parts like stems, roots or buds.
Cuttings	Pieces of stem or branch cut from a plant and planted to grow a new plant.
Seedling	A young plant that has just grown from a seed.
Harvest	To collect mature fruits, leaves, flowers or stems from plants.

1 Why plants and animals matter

Plants and animals are important in our daily lives. They give us food. They give us shelter. They give us medicine. They also help to keep the environment in balance.

Plants also give shade, prevent soil erosion, help to improve the air and provide homes for living things. These are called environmental benefits.

Use	Meaning
Food	What we eat to stay alive
Shelter	Places to live and be safe
Medicine	Help when we are sick
Balance	A healthy environment

Figure 1. What plants and animals give us

2 Horticulture and crop production

Horticulture is growing fruits, vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants. Garden plants include tomatoes, onions, cabbages, rape, bananas and oranges.

To grow plants, first choose a site, which is the place where plants are grown. Then do land preparation: clear, dig and loosen the soil and make ridges or beds.

Propagation means growing new plants from seeds or other plant parts. You can use cuttings, budding and grafting. Budding joins a bud from one plant onto another plant. Grafting joins a stem from one plant onto the stem of another plant.

When the plants are mature, harvest them. Learners can then sell the products to earn income. Marketing means selling products to customers, including displaying, pricing and talking to buyers.

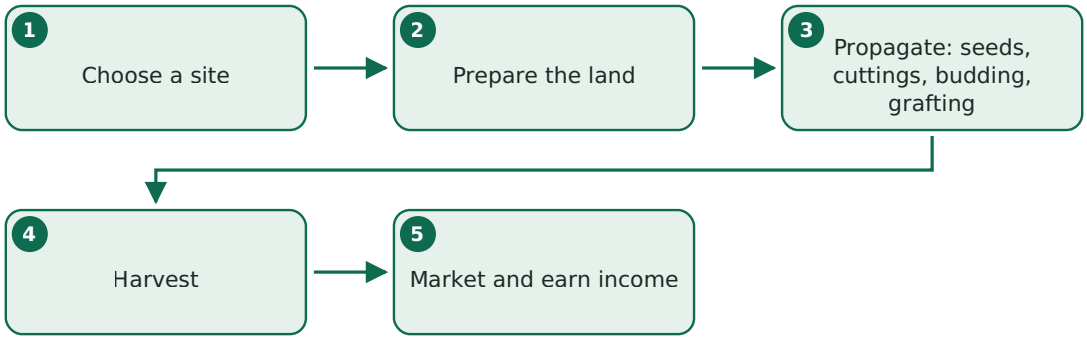


Figure 2. From site to income

TRY THIS

Name three plants in your home garden or school garden. Say what each one gives to people and to the environment. Tell a friend.

REMEMBER

- Plants and animals give food, shelter and medicine
- They help to balance the environment
- Horticulture is growing fruits, vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants
- Propagation uses seeds, cuttings, budding and grafting
- We harvest and market plant products to earn income

? Check yourself

1. Name two things plants and animals give us.
2. What is horticulture.
3. What is a seedling.
4. What does harvest mean.
5. Mulenga wants to start a small vegetable garden at home with tomatoes, onions and rape for his family. (a) What is the place for the garden called. (b) What must he do to the soil. (c) Name one way to grow new plants.
6. Chanda has harvested cabbages from the school garden and wants to sell them at the market to earn money for the class. (a) What do we call the money earned. (b) What do we call selling to customers. (c) Name one thing a seller does.

ANSWERS

1. Food, shelter or medicine.
2. Growing fruits, vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants.
3. A young plant that has just grown from a seed.
4. To collect mature fruits, leaves, flowers or stems from plants.
5. (a) The site. (b) Land preparation: clear, dig and loosen it and make ridges or beds. (c) Seeds, cuttings, budding or grafting.
6. (a) Income. (b) Marketing. (c) Displaying, pricing or talking to buyers.

Written by 25Schools to follow the Grade 4 Science syllabus of the Zambian competence-based curriculum. Free for learners to read, download and share. More notes and quizzes at 25schools.com.