From the booklet: Living processes and what plants need to grow

*Teaching Notes*

**How does water travel through a plant?**

This activity can be used with more able children at upper primary, to show that water is taken up by the roots and then travels through the plant to the leaves.

**Following the pathway of water through celery**

***Resources***

* *Celery (with leaves, if possible)*
* *A knife*
* *Coloured ink, e.g. red or blue (mixed 50:50 with water)*
* *Suitable container to hold the celery*

***The activity***

* Place some whole pieces of celery in the container so that one end stands in the coloured ink mixture, with any leaves at the top. Discuss with the children what they think might happen.
* After a few hours, let the children take a celery piece out of the ink mixture and cut it into three equal parts. They should write down their observations. [They are likely to see several dots (red or blue, depending on the colour of ink used).]
* Then they can take another of the pieces of celery, slice it in half lengthwise and again write down their observations. [Now they are likely to see coloured lines (red or blue). These are the ‘tubes’ that the water travels through.]
* The children can try and pull the coloured lines that they see from the celery. Discuss with the children what these coloured lines are and why they are the same colour as the water the celery has been standing in.