

AIM: To help children, through exploring poetry, to realise that:

- a) There are three categories of living things – plants, animals and people
- b) Plants can be sorted into ‘plants we eat’ and ‘plants we don’t eat’.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON

Having looked in the infant lessons at the basic biological classification of matter into ‘living’ and ‘non-living’, we move on in this lesson to classify living things further into plants, animals and people. From their experience of the world already, children will know what people, plants and animals are. However, they may not be aware of these as ‘categories’. Categories are best established by having to ‘sort things out’. The following ‘nonsense poem’ has deliberately mixed up plants, animals and people. In order to allow the children’s imagination as much scope as possible, you might like to leave the poster until the end of the lesson i.e. after the children have done their own imaginary drawings.

DISCUSSION

- How is Peplantimal land different from where we live?
- What do you think it would be like to live there?
- What are some of the differences between a plant and an animal? A plant and a person? An animal and a person?
- Can you think of anything that’s not a plant or an animal or a person?
- Does this thing grow?
- Can you finish this sentence: All living things belong to either people, animals or . . .
- Can you finish this sentence: There are two kinds of plants, plants we eat and . . .
- We call plants we eat f . . . and v . . .

Read the poem (without the introduction) a second time, more slowly, asking the children to shout ‘Stop’ each time they hear the name of a plant or something to do with a plant. Ask them to describe it:

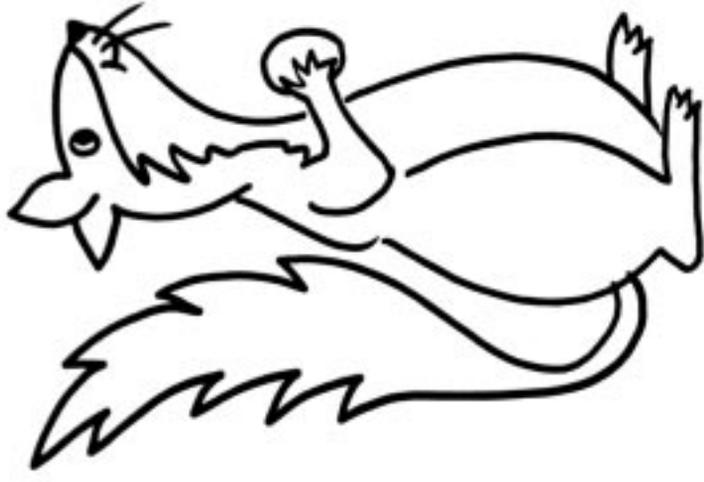
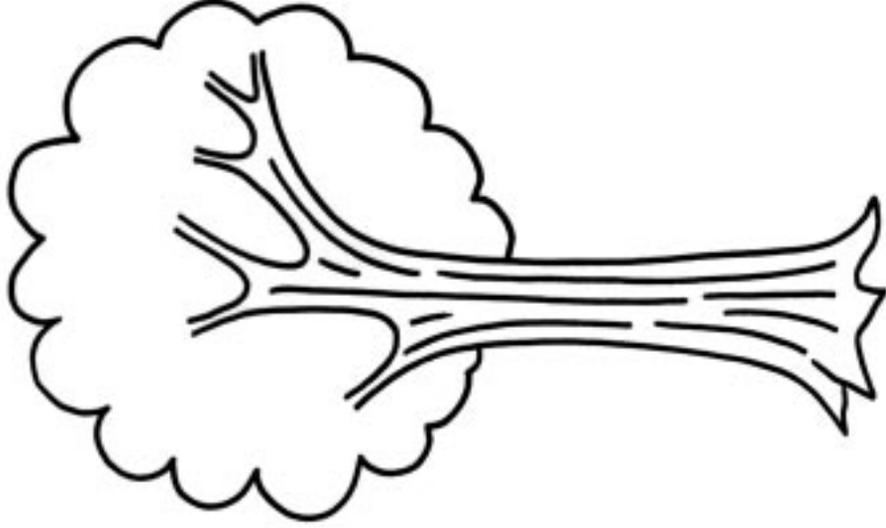
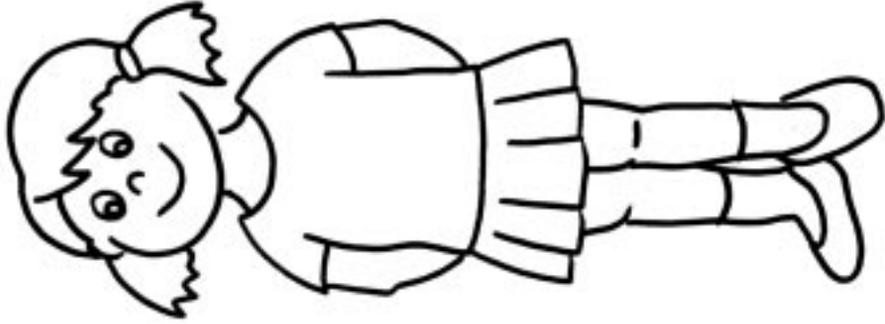
- Have they ever eaten it?
- Do they think it’s a fruit or a vegetable?
- What’s the difference? (It is important to let the children come up with their own ‘schema’ here as a way of learning to classify).

LET’S DO IT

- Read the poem one last time. Ask the children to pick out their favourite ‘Peplantimal’ and invite all the children to draw a picture of it on a length of wallpaper. Display this art work under the title ‘Peplantimal Land’.
- Divide the class into three groups – a plant group, a people group and an animal group. Give each group a large piece of paper. Each group draws what belongs in their group.



There are three kinds of living things . . .



P_____

P_____

A_____