Name: _____ Date: _____

Root a Pothos Cutting in a Jar

Circle group

You can make a new houseplant without buying a seed. You need a healthy pothos vine, clean scissors, a clear jar and water. This is called taking a cutting. It works because many plants can grow roots from a piece of stem.

First, ask an adult before you cut a plant that is not yours. Look for a vine with several leaves. Find a node. A node is a small bump on the stem where a leaf joins. Roots grow from nodes, so each cutting needs at least one. Snip about an inch below a node. Keep two or three leaves above it.

Next, fill the jar with water that is not hot or cold. Put the cutting in so the node is under the water. The leaves stay dry. Set the jar in bright light, but not in hard sun, which can overheat it. Every few days, pour out the old water and add fresh water.

In a few weeks, thin white roots will show. When they are a few inches long, move the cutting to a pot of soil. Water it well. The new plant has the same genes as its parent, so it will look just like it.

Questions

1. What is a node?

_____

_____

2. How far below a node should you snip the stem?

_____

_____

3. What should stay dry when the cutting is in the jar?

_____

_____

4. How often should you change the water?

_____

_____

5. Why does each cutting need at least one node?

_____

_____

6. Why will the new plant look just like its parent?

_____

_____

Words to know

cutting: a piece cut from a plant that can grow into a new plant
node: the spot on a stem where a leaf or branch grows out
snip: to cut with a quick small movement
healthy: strong and free from sickness

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Root a Pothos Cutting in a Jar

Triangle group

You can make a brand new houseplant without buying a seed. All you need is a healthy pothos vine, a pair of clean scissors, a clear jar and some water. This method is called taking a cutting, and it works because many plants can grow roots from a piece of stem.

First, ask an adult before you cut a plant that belongs to someone else. Look for a vine with several leaves. Find a node, which is a small bump on the stem where a leaf joins. Roots will grow from nodes, so each cutting needs at least one. Snip about an inch below a node, and keep two or three leaves above it.

Next, fill the jar with room-temperature water and place the cutting inside so the node is under the water but the leaves stay dry. Set the jar in bright light, but not in harsh direct sun, which can overheat it. Every few days, pour out the old water and add fresh water so it stays clean.

Within a few weeks, you should see thin white roots emerging from the node. When the roots are a few inches long, move the cutting into a pot of soil and water it well. Because the new plant has the same genes as the original, it will look just like its parent.

Questions

1. What is a node?

_____

_____

2. How far below a node should you snip the stem?

_____

_____

3. Why should the leaves stay out of the water?

_____

_____

4. How often should you change the water?

_____

_____

5. Why does each cutting need at least one node?

_____

_____

6. Why will the new plant look just like its parent?

_____

_____

Words to know

cutting: a piece cut from a plant that can grow into a new plant
node: the spot on a stem where a leaf or branch grows out
snip: to cut with a quick small movement
emerging: coming out and becoming visible
healthy: strong and free from sickness

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Root a Pothos Cutting in a Jar

Square group

You can produce a brand new houseplant without purchasing a single seed. All that is required is a healthy pothos vine, a pair of clean scissors, a transparent jar and some water. This method is known as taking a cutting, and it succeeds because many plants are able to grow roots from a piece of stem.

First, ask an adult for permission before you cut a plant that belongs to someone else. Look for a vine bearing several leaves. Locate a node, which is a small bump on the stem at the point where a leaf attaches. Roots develop from nodes, so every cutting must include at least one. Snip approximately an inch below a node, and retain two or three leaves above it.

Next, fill the jar with room-temperature water and lower the cutting inside so that the node is submerged while the leaves stay dry. Place the jar in bright light, but not in harsh direct sun, which could overheat it. Every few days, pour out the old water and replace it with fresh water so that it remains clean.

Within a few weeks, you should notice thin white roots emerging from the node. Once the roots are a few inches long, transfer the cutting into a pot of soil and water it thoroughly. Because the new plant carries the same genes as the original, it will resemble its parent exactly.

Questions

1. What is a node?

_____

_____

2. How far below a node should you snip the stem?

_____

_____

3. What should stay dry while the node is under the water?

_____

_____

4. How often should you replace the water?

_____

_____

5. Why must each cutting include at least one node?

_____

_____

6. Why will the new plant resemble its parent exactly?

_____

_____

Words to know

cutting: a piece cut from a plant that can grow into a new plant
node: the spot on a stem where a leaf or branch grows out
snip: to cut with a quick small movement
emerging: coming out and becoming visible
healthy: strong and free from sickness

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Root a Pothos Cutting in a Jar

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Root a Pothos Cutting in a Jar

Easier · 201 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. A small bump on the stem where a leaf joins.
2. About an inch.
3. The leaves.
4. Every few days.
5. The roots grow from the nodes.
6. It grows from a piece of the parent, so it has the same genes.

Triangle: Root a Pothos Cutting in a Jar

This passage · 223 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. A small bump on the stem where a leaf joins.
2. About an inch.
3. The writer says the node goes under the water but the leaves stay dry.
4. Every few days.
5. The roots grow from the nodes.
6. It grows from a piece of the parent, so it has the same genes.

Square: Root a Pothos Cutting in a Jar

Harder · 234 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.1

1. A small bump on the stem where a leaf attaches.
2. Approximately an inch.
3. The leaves.
4. Every few days.
5. The roots develop from the nodes.
6. It grows from a piece of the parent, so it carries the same genes.