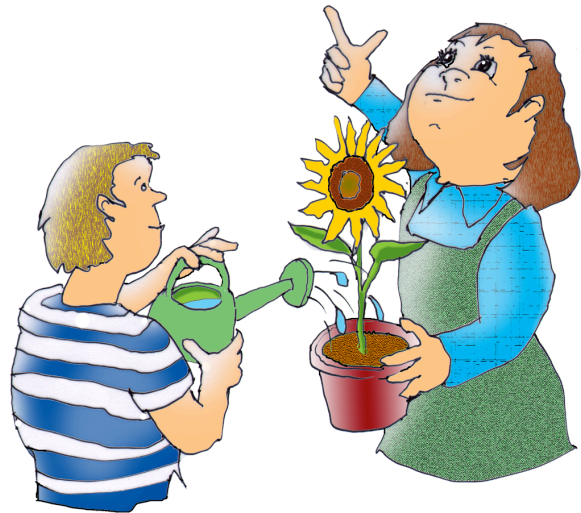


# Sunflower Maths Sprouts

## Information for teachers

Sunflower seeds can be a wonderful resource in any classroom as they are packed full of maths possibilities. They are readily available in garden shops and nurseries.



Growing sunflowers in your school garden can be a class maths investigation, where your students collect data comparing growing times and heights. Early Term 1 or Term 4 are both good times to start, as sunflowers grow well during the hotter months.

In addition to studying real sunflowers in your school garden, oodles of sunflower maths facts can easily be found through online student research.

The following 10 Maths Activity cards can be used with pairs or small groups of students to stimulate their mathematical thinking. Information can be collected and recorded in their maths workbooks or summarised using appropriate technology.

Each *Sunflower Maths Sprout* contains one or more fact. Encourage your students to find and explore the maths themselves. What does it tell them? How can they dig deeper? What further questions could they ask and answer about each fact? How can they extend each fact? What are the maths skills they could use? Which maths skills do they need to improve to better answer their question? Are there any misunderstandings that need to be discussed together?

Attached are some suggested questions your students might like to follow up to get them started. Use these only if necessary. For example if you photocopy each card you can remove the sample questions before giving the card to your students.

Growing young mathematicians need to feel confident and successful, so make sure you provide plenty of opportunities for your students to share their ideas and challenges with each other and to reflect on how their mathematical ideas are improving.

Growing young mathematicians can be even more fun than growing sunflower seeds.