



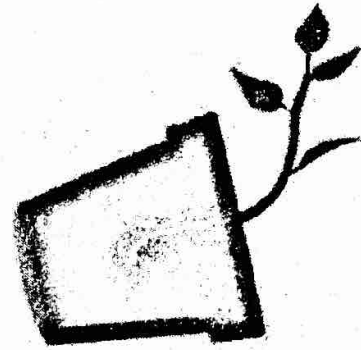
Plant Behavior

Plants can't move like animals can, but they will still respond to a **stimulus**, or change in the environment. A plant growth in response to a stimulus is called a **tropism**. Plants respond to stimuli such as gravity, light, and touch.

When you drop a seed in soil, you don't have to worry about which direction the seed faces. Why? Because plant roots respond to gravity and so grow down toward Earth's center. Stems, on the other hand, grow upward, or away from the pull of gravity. Plant growth in response to gravity is called **gravitropism** (grav-ih-TROH-piz-um), or geotropism.

If you place a plant near a window, you will notice that, eventually, most of the leaves will be facing the sun. The leaves turn when cells on one side of the stem grow longer than cells on the other side. This change in the growth of a plant in response to light is called **phototropism**. Phototropism is important because plants need light to carry out photosynthesis.

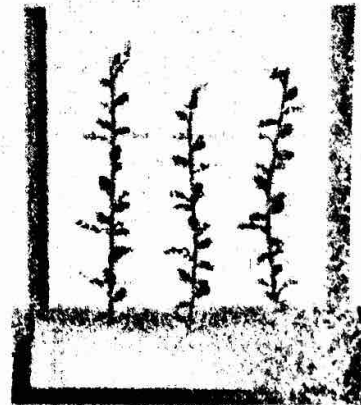
Some plants respond to touch. For example, vines of beans, peas, and other plants will grab onto and grow upward along a vertical support to maximize the amount of sun they receive. The response of a plant to touch is called **thigmotropism** (thig-ma-TROH-piz-um).



Gravitropism



Phototropism



Thigmotropism

Science Alerts

The hinged leaf of a Venus' flytrap plant will snap shut when an insect lands on it. This response is not a tropism, however, because it does not involve growth. The leaf can return to its original position within minutes.

Name _____

Date _____

Block _____

Directions -- Read the ScienceSaurus article, numbering the paragraphs as you read. Then, read the section again, this time underlining bold words and their definitions. Finally, complete the chart below using the information from the reading.

paragraph		Definition	Information
	Tropism		
	Gravitropism		
	Phototropism		
	Thigmotropism		