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Taproot System

In some plants, the primary root grows long and thick and gives rise to smaller branch roots. The large primary root is called a taproot.



The taproots of oak and hickory trees grow so long that they can reach water several meters below the surface.



For example, a dandelion has a short, thick taproot that stores sugars and starches. Regents Biology



In other plants, such as grass, the system begins with one primary root. But it is soon replaced by many equally sized branch roots that grow separately from the base of the stem.

The extensive fibrous root systems produced by many plants help prevent topsoil from being washed away by heavy rain. Regents Biology







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The cell membranes of root hairs and other cells in the root epidermis contain active transport proteins.

Active transport brings the mineral ions of dissolved nutrients from the soil into the plant.

The high concentration of mineral ions in the plant cells causes water molecules to move into the plant by osmosis.







Movement Into the Vascular Cylinder

The Casparian strip also ensures that valuable nutrients will not leak back out. As a result, there is a one-way passage of water and nutrients into the vascular cylinder.



Root Pressure

As minerals are pumped into the vascular cylinder, more and more water follows by osmosis, producing a strong pressure.

Contained within the Casparian strip, the water has just one place to go—up. Root pressure, produced within the cylinder by active transport, forces water through the vascular cylinder and into the xylem. As more water moves from the cortex into the vascular cylinder, more water in the xylem is forced upward through the root into the stem.





Stem Structure and Function

What do water chestnuts, bamboo shoots, asparagus, and potatoes all have in common? They are all types of stems. Stems vary in size, shape, and method of development.

Aboveground stems have several important functions: Stems produce leaves, branches, and flowers; stems hold leaves up to the sun; and stems transport substances throughout the plant.

Stems make up an essential part of the water and mineral transport systems of the plant. Xylem and phloem form continuous tubes from the roots through the stems to the leaves. These vascular tissues allow water, nutrients, and other compounds to be carried throughout the plant.

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Stem Structure and Function

In many plants, stems also function in storage and aid in the process of photosynthesis.

For example, desert cacti have thick green stems that carry out photosynthesis and are adapted to store water.









Dicot Stems

Young dicot stems have vascular bundles that are generally arranged in a ringlike pattern, as shown in this cross section.

The parenchyma cells inside the ring of vascular tissue are known as **pith**, while those outside form the cortex of the stem.

These tissue patterns become more complex as the plant grows and the stem increases in diameter. Regents Biology



Growth of Stems How do primary growth and secondary growth occur in stems? Primary growth of stems is the result of elongation of cells produced in the apical meristem. It takes place in all seed plants. In conifers and dicots, secondary growth takes place in meristems called the vascular cambium and cork cambium.

Primary Growth

A plant's apical meristems at the roots and shoots produce new cells and increase its length. This growth, occurring at the ends of a plant, is called **primary growth**. It takes place in all seed plants.

The figure below shows the increase in a plant due to primary growth over several years.







Secondary growth is very common among dicots and non-flowering seed plants such as pines, but is rare in monocots. This limits the girth of most monocots.

Unlike monocots, most dicots have meristems within their stems and roots that can produce true secondary growth. This enables them to grow to great heights because the increase in width supports the extra weight.















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Tree Rings

Each ring has light wood at one edge and dark wood at the other, making a sharp boundary between rings.

Usually, a ring corresponds to a year of growth. By counting the rings in a cross section of a tree, you can estimate its age.

The size of the rings may even provide information about weather conditions. Thick rings indicate that weather conditions were favorable for tree growth, Regents whereas thin rings indicate less-favorable conditions.

Formation of Bark

In a mature stem, all of the tissues found outside the vascular cambium make up the **bark**, as shown in the figure. These tissues include phloem, the cork cambium, and cork. As a tree expands in width, the oldest tissues may split and fragment. The cork cambium surrounds the cortex and produces a thick, protective layer of waterproof cork that prevents the loss of water from the stem. As the stem increases in size, outer layers of dead bark often crack and flake off the tree.

Xylem (Sapwood) Contains active xylem that isports water and dissolved nutrients Xylem (Heartwood Old

Cork Contains nonfunctioning phloem Cork Cambium A meristem that produces the protective layer of cork Phioem A vascular tissue that transports sugars made by photosynthesis Vascular Cambium neristem that produces new xylem d phloem, increasing stem width

Bark





































Transpiration

As water evaporates through open stomata, the cell walls within the leaf begin to dry out.

The dry cell walls draw water from cells deeper inside the leaf's vascular tissue so that water is pulled up through xylem.

The hotter and drier the air, and the windier the day, the greater the amount of water lost and the more water the plant draws up from the roots.





one another by a force called cohesion. Water cohesion is especially strong because of the tendency of water molecules to form hydrogen bonds with each other.

Water molecules can also form hydrogen bonds with other substances. This results from a force called **adhesion**, which is attraction between unlike molecules.





Putting It All Together

Xylem tissue is composed of tracheids and vessel elements that form many hollow, connected tubes. These tubes are lined with cellulose cell walls, to which water adheres very strongly.

When transpiration removes water from the exposed walls, strong adhesion forces pull in water from the wet interior of the leaf. That pull is so powerful that it extends down through the tips of roots to the water in the soil.






Nutrient Transport

3. If another region of the plant has a need for sugars, they are actively pumped out of the tube and into the surrounding tissue. Water then leaves the tube via osmosis, reducing the pressure.

The result of the pressure-flow system is the flow of nutrient-rich fluid from the sources of sugars (source cells) to the places where sugars are used or stored (sink cells).



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Nutrient Transport The pressure-flow system gives plants flexibility in responding to changing seasons. During the growing season, sugars from the leaves are directed into ripening fruits or into roots for storage. As the growing season ends, the plant drops its fruits and stores nutrients in the roots. As spring approaches, phloem cells in the roots pump sugars back into phloem sap, and the pressure-flow system raises these sugars into stems and leaves to support rapid growth.































- Microspores are produced in the male cone and give rise to the male gametophyte, eventually developing into pollen grains.
- Megaspores (contained within ovule) are produced in the female cone and give rise to the female gametophyte.

The Process

In conifers, pollen is carried by wind to the ovule and the male gametophyte contained in the pollen grain produces a pollen tube which provides a way for the sperm cell to reach the egg.









Advantages of Fruits

After pollination, the ovary develops into a **fruit**, a structure containing one or more matured ovaries. The wall of the fruit helps disperse the seeds contained inside it. The development of the multiple ovaries of a blackberry flower into the cluster of fruits that make up one berry is shown.

When an animal eats a fleshy fruit, seeds from the fruit enter the animal's digestive system. By the time the seeds leave the digestive system, the animal may have traveled many kilometers.

By using fruit, flowering plants increase the ranges they inhabit.







Monocots and Dicots

The differences between monocots and dicots include the distribution of vascular tissue in stems, roots, and leaves, and the number of petals per flower.

The characteristics of monocots and dicots are compared in the table below.









































Dermal Tissue

- Dermal tissue is the protective outer covering of a plant.
- Dermal tissue in young plants consists of a single layer of cells, called the **epidermis**.
- The outer surfaces of epidermal cells are often covered with a thick waxy layer called the **cuticle**, which protects against water loss. In older plants, dermal tissue may be many cell layers deep and may be covered with bark.
- Some epidermal cells have tiny projections known as trichomes that help protect the leaf and may give the leaf a fuzzy appearance.
- In roots, dermal tissue includes root hair cells that help absorb water.

Xylem: Tracheids

- All seed plants have xylem cells called tracheids.
- As they mature, tracheids die, leaving only their cell walls. These cell walls contain lignin, a complex molecule that gives wood much of its strength.
- Openings in the walls connect neighboring cells and allow water to flow from cell to cell.
- Thinner regions of the wall, known as pits, allow water to diffuse from tracheids into surrounding ground
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Xylem: Vessel Elements

Angiosperms have a second form of xylem tissue known as **vessel** elements, which are wider than tracheids and are arranged end to end on top of one another like a stack of tin cans.

After they mature and die, cell walls at both ends are left with slit-like openings through which water can move freely.

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Ground Tissue

Parenchyma cells, the main type of ground tissue, have thin cell walls and a large central vacuole surrounded by a thin layer of cytoplasm. In leaves, these cells contain many chloroplasts and are the site of most of a plant's photosynthesis.

Collenchyma cells have strong, flexible cell walls that help support plant organs.

Sclerenchyma cells have extremely thick, rigid cell walls that make ground tissue such as seed coats tough and strong.




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Shoot apical

ot apical

Apical Meristems

Because the tip of a stem or root is known as its apex, meristems in these regions are called **apical meristems**. Unspecialized cells produced in apical meristems divide rapidly as stems and roots increase in length.

The micrographs in the figure show examples of stem and root apical meristems.



Meristems and Flower Development The highly specialized cells found in cones and flowers are also produced in meristems.

Flower or cone development begins when the pattern of gene expression changes in a stem's apical meristem. These changes transform the apical meristem of a flowering plant into a floral meristem. Floral meristems produce the tissues of flowers, which include the plant's reproductive organs as well as the colorful petals that Regense product them.































