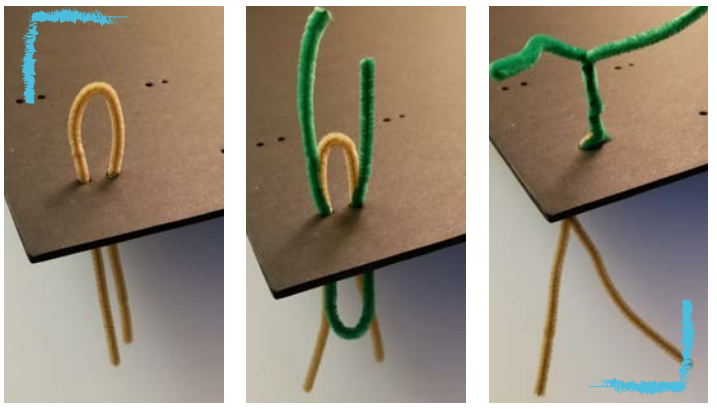
DAY two

Lesson: Underground Root Table

Objective:
Students will explore a plant model to become familiar with different plant parts.

Materials/Prep:
2- to 3-foot section of pegboard or foam board, pipe cleaners (mostly green and brown needed)

- **Make a root table** by propping a piece of pegboard between two tables or shelves. If needed, secure the edges with tape. (As an alternative to the pegboard, you could poke holes through a section of foam board.)
- **Next, make the roots.** Make fibrous roots by looping brown pipe cleaners between 2 holes in the pegboard (going down) as shown below. For half of the "plants," twist additional pipe cleaners as needed to create more, shorter fibrous roots. For the remaining half of the "plants," twist additional pipe cleaners to make longer, single tap roots.
- **To make the leaves and flowers**, fold green pipe cleaners through the pegboard and twist them on top, going up. Twist on additional pipe cleaners as needed to form leaf shapes. Add colorful pipe cleaners in the shape of flowers to the top of the stems.



Lesson Narrative:

1. **I've made a cool, pretend plant out of pipe cleaners.**
   - My plant has green pipe cleaners that represent stems and leaves.
   - I made it look like it's growing in our root table.
   - This pegboard is like the ground, and the brown pipe cleaners represent roots. The colorful pipe cleaners represent flowers.
2. **We are going to take turns going under the root table to play with the roots.**
   - You can touch and twist the roots together and we can see that some roots are longer and some are shorter. Allow students to crawl under the root table to explore and gently play with the pretend roots.

3. **How does it feel to be under the table?**
   - What do the roots look like from under the table?
   - Do some of the plants have lots of short roots?
   - Do some plants have one very long root?
   - Lift the table to allow the class to see the roots together. Which one is the shortest? Which is the longest?
   - Can you guess how many roots we have? Let's count them together to find out! Use an extra pipe cleaner to form that numeral and show it to students.
4. **Roots on real plants are hidden under the soil.**
   - Different roots can look very different but they all do an important job for the plant.
   - We will learn more about roots next week!
5. **The root table will be available throughout our unit for you to explore. Next time you are crawling under the "root" table, find and touch the short roots and the long roots.**