

Everyone in class can have a rainforest plant

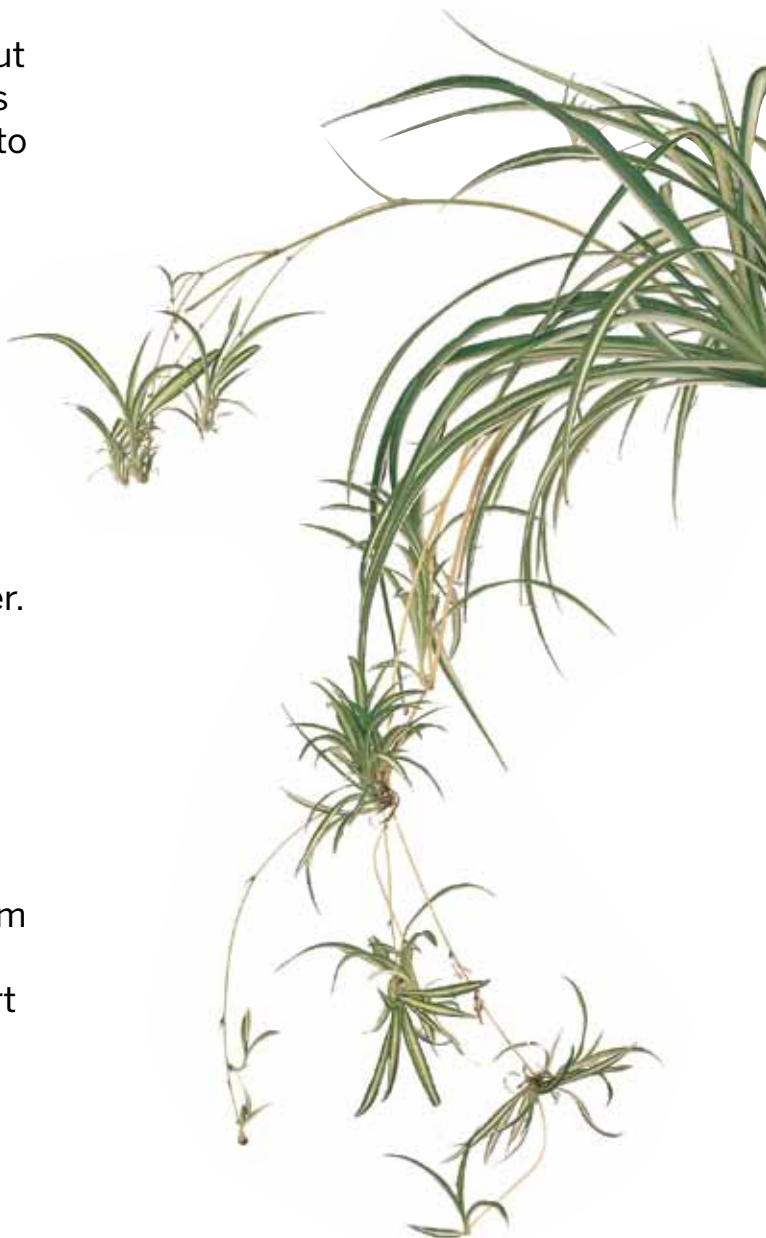
Spider plants are one of the most common house plants around.

Spider plants (from the African rainforest) are the ones that send out long shoots with lots of 'baby' plants on – good for everyone in the class to have a small rainforest plant.

In class, put some spider plants on a shelf (but NOT in direct sunlight). Within a few weeks they will send out long thin stems and at each joint (node) a small baby will grow, complete with roots. Put a pot with soil under where the baby is and weight it down on the soil with stones. Add a bit more soil and water. Wait for the roots to 'take' and then cut it away from the parent plant.

Getting new plants from old ones is called propagation.

These babies will even grow if you cut the stem off before planting them out, but then you must keep the pot they are in very moist until they start to grow.



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The spider plant is one of the easiest plants to grow, one of the cheapest, and one of the best for simple propagation. It also grows very fast.

If you buy a couple of these plants, you can use them to give everyone a plant by the end of term, showing each child how to propagate a 'baby' and then putting their name on the plant pot.

Get them into a routine of testing the soil to make sure it has moisture.

Think about fertiliser and so on.

You can also use this for variation. Do all baby plants grow up the same, or do some grow larger than others etc, etc?