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Types of plant stems

1. Woody stems
These stems are hard, strong and usually brown.
They are found in trees and shrubs.
Examples: Mango and guava trees.

2. Non-woody or herbaceous stems
These stems are usually soft, green and flexible.
Examples: Balsam and water grass.

Other kinds of woody and non-woody (herbaceous) stems:

3. Twining stems
These stems twist around a pole, stick or other support.
Example: Bodi plant.

4. Climbing stems
These stems grow upwards with the help of support.
Some use special structures called tendrils to climb.
Examples: Karaille and passion fruit.

5. Creeping stems
These stems grow along the ground.
Examples: Pumpkin and savannah grass.

6. Hollow stems
These stems have an empty space or hole in the middle.
Examples: Bamboo and some grasses.

7. Underground stems
These stems grow beneath the soil.
They may store food for the plant.
Examples: Ginger and arrowroot.

8**. False stems (pseudostems)**
These look like stems but are made from tightly rolled leaf bases.
Examples: Banana and dasheen.

Important facts to remember
Ginger is an underground stem, not a root.
The banana plant has a false stem.
Tendrils help some climbing plants to attach themselves to supports.
Mango and guava trees have woody stems.

LIVEWORKSHEETS