

# GARDEN MUSEUM



## Juicy Fruity Pineapple

Suitable for Primary Science

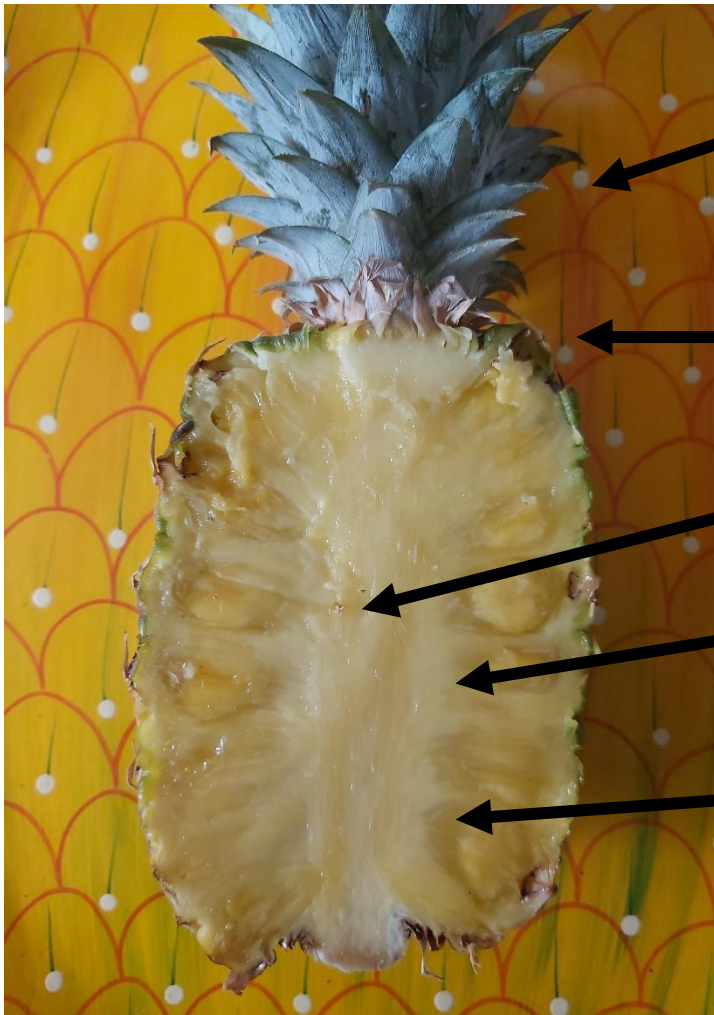
# Do pineapples grow on trees?

- Pineapples are members of the Bromeliaceae family and pineapple grows above ground on a plant which has a stem and a leaves.
- It isn't an apple or a pine but a fruit that consists of many berries or fruitlets that have fused together.
- The top of the pineapple called the crown can be planted in the soil and a new plant will emerge on a single stalk from the centre of a rosette of spiky leaves.
- The lance shaped leaves have serrated edges and the crown shades the developing fruit from sunscald.
- The fruit originated in South America and in the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was introduced into Africa, Asia and Australasia and it is now grown throughout the tropics.
- Thailand, Philippines and Costa Rica are the top producing countries.

# Why does it have such a funny name?

- All living organisms have a Latin name which comes in two parts, a bit like your first name and your surname.
- The Latin name for the pineapple is *Ananas comosus* and in many languages for example in Urdu, French Hindi and 40 other languages, it is called Ananas.
- In Spanish it is called Piña.
- Christopher Columbus encountered the fruit during his voyages and called it piña de Indes which means 'pine of the Indians' as they thought it looked like a pine cone!

# Structure



Crown

Base of crown

The Core

Flesh

Fruitlets

The outer skin is tough and minimizes water loss. It also protects against pests and disease.



# What's happening to my tongue?



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Eating a fresh pineapple, you might find your tongue feeling a bit furry.

This is because of a naturally occurring enzyme called Bromelain that breaks down proteins so is great for tenderizing meat, but it also starts acting on your tongue!

Don't worry though it won't eat you if you swallow it as the gastric juices in your stomach are acidic, so the enzyme is destroyed. If you eat tinned pineapple the enzyme has already been denatured or destroyed in the canning process!