Power of Attraction
A plant is so irresistibly attracted to light that it will twist and turn to find it. Watch this curious plant behavior in your home laboratory.

Materials
• 10 pea or bean seeds
• saucer-sized circle of surgical cotton wool
• 2 saucers
• small jug of water
• 2 small yogurt pots filled with damp garden soil
• cardboard box with lid, painted black on the inside and about 3 times larger than 1 yogurt pot
• ruler, pencil and penknife

1. Put the cotton wool on a saucer.
2. Add enough water to soak the cotton wool but not to flood the saucer.
3. Put the seeds 1 cm apart on cotton wool.
4. Cover them with the other saucer to keep out the light, and put them in a warm place for three or four days. Keep the cotton wool moist.
5. Look at the seeds. They should have germinated, or grown shoots. (Some may not germinate.) Germinated seeds will have a shoot with tiny leaves and a white root.
6. Use your finger to make three holes in the soil in each pot.
7. Put half the plants, root side down, into the holes in one pot, and half into the holes in the other pot.
8. Scoop soil round the plants.
9. Use the tip of the penknife to poke a small hole about half-way up one side of the box.

10. Put both pots on a well-lit window sill.
11. Cover one pot with the box. In 4-5 days, you should see the uncovered plants growing upright.
12. Lift the box from the other pot.

Your plants will have bent their stems in an effort to reach the light coming through the hole in the box. This movement towards the light is called phototropism. (If the covered plants have not grown, put the box back over the pot and leave it for a few more days.)