

Phylum Bryophyta

Examples: mosses,
liverworts & hornworts

- **Lack vascular tissue:**
 - **no** true roots, stems
or leaves

moss



liverwort

hornwort



Mosses:

- Restricted to wet areas
- Dominant stage (stage you see and most associated with the plant) is the gametophyte.
- Simple cells in centre of stem-like and leaf-like structures to transport some things but mainly by DIFFUSION.



Mosses continued:

- Rhizoids anchor the plant
- Reproduction –
 - **Asexual** – fragmentation
 - **Sexual** – spores – dispersed by wind & water. Separate male and female gametophytes but on the same plant = unique
 - Also need water so sperm can swim to the egg.



- mosses are pioneer species because it is the first to establish itself on rocks and soil surfaces where there are no plants.
- As they die, they enrich the soil for larger plants = soil formation like lichens!



Ecological roles of moss

- Pioneer species
- Food source
- Home for animals
- Form peat = fuel source
- Very absorptive – soak up oil spills
- Antiseptic properties – dressings for wounds

