

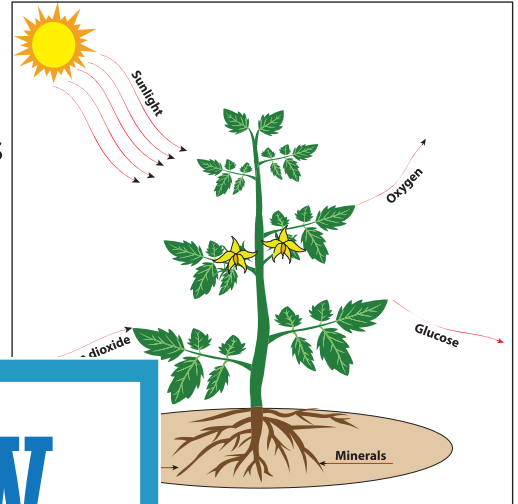
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# Photosynthesis

by Katie Clark

All living things need food, air, and water to live.

Humans and animals breathe oxygen. Even fish breathe oxygen in the water using their gills. Mammals take in food and water through their mouths.



Plants are different. They don't have mouths or

gills. Plants take in water from the soil through their roots. In air called carbon dioxide through their leaves and stems.

However, plants get what they need

Plants are equipped with photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is the process by which plants convert carbon dioxide and water into glucose through a breathing process.

When light from the sun hits the plants. The light works like a trigger. It signals the plant to begin the process of taking in air and creating food.

The light also acts as the energy needed to perform these tasks. Energy is the ability to work. Without energy, none of us could do anything. We could not take a walk or ride a bike. We could not play with our pets or eat our supper.

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nutrient? How do they  
1. This process is called  
plants. It is the process  
ch they complete the

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Plants cannot make food or fully breathe without energy. The light from the Sun is the energy they need. This is due to the process of photosynthesis.

Photosynthesis happens in two stages, or parts. The first part happens in the day time, or the light. It is called the light dependent stage of photosynthesis.

As plants absorb the light from the Sun, cells inside the plants move and convert the light. These cells are called chloroplasts, and they use something called chlorophyll to do this job.

As mentioned in the previous lesson, plants take in water molecules from their roots. They also take in carbon dioxide molecules from the air through the tiny openings in their leaves. The energy from the Sun is converted into energy from the light.

Next comes the dark reaction, or the Calvin Cycle. During this stage, plants use the energy from the light to create their food. The food is a substance called glucose. Plants use glucose for nourishment and to store energy.

During this stage is also when plants complete the breathing process. We learned earlier that plants take in carbon dioxide from the air. Through the process of energy conversion, plants can change the carbon dioxide into oxygen. This is what they breathe out.

Think of the way you breathe. When you take in a breath you are using the oxygen

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from the air. When you let out that breath you are releasing carbon dioxide.

Plants do just the opposite. They take in the carbon dioxide. They let out oxygen.

Plants need both light and darkness to complete the photosynthesis process. The light provides them with energy, and the dark provides them with the time to produce food and complete the breathing process.

Even though humans and animals do not perform photosynthesis, it still benefits them. This is because they take in the carbon dioxide that humans and animals release and produce the oxygen they need to breathe in.

This is due in part to the process of photosynthesis.

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# Photosynthesis

- 1) Which of the below is not an ideal title for the passage?
  - a. All about photosynthesis
  - b. How plants are unique from other living beings
  - c. How photosynthesis benefits humans
  - d. Know your plants!

- 2) Write a short note on photosynthesis.

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- 3) How does the in \_\_\_\_\_ are of the passage?

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- 4) Which of the foll  
  - a. Plants need fo
  - b. Plants breathe
  - c. Plants need w
  - d. Plants need vi

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- 5) Illustrate the two stages involved in photosynthesis.

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