

Name: _____

Plants Make Food

A baby eats only milk. Cows eat grass. Birds eat bugs. You eat lots of different foods. Babies, cows, birds, and you need to eat food to get energy. Energy is needed to live and grow. Plants live and grow, too. But what do plants eat?

Plants can make their own food. How do they do it? They get energy from the sun's light. They use that energy, along with water and a gas from the air, to make their own food. This is called photosynthesis (foe toe SIN thuh sis).



Plants have something unique that lets them do photosynthesis. It's called chlorophyll (KLOR-uh-fill). Chlorophyll is a chemical. It gives plants their green color. Chlorophyll changes sunlight into chemical energy.

Plants need chlorophyll to make food. They need light from the sun. They also need water. Plants get water from the soil through their roots. Plants also need a gas from the air. They get carbon dioxide gas through tiny openings in their leaves. Inside the plant, carbon dioxide and water go through a chemical change. The water is split into oxygen and hydrogen. The hydrogen joins with the carbon dioxide. It makes a kind of sugar. The oxygen is not needed by the plant. It passes out of the tiny openings in the leaves. It becomes part of the air. That's a good thing for people and animals! We need oxygen to breathe.

The plant uses most of the sugar it makes to live and grow. Some of the sugar is stored in the plant. Animals and people can eat plants to get this stored sugar. Plants make their own food. We eat plants. They make food for us, too!

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Questions

- _____ 1. Which of these do plants need to make food?
 - A. sunlight
 - B. water
 - C. carbon dioxide
 - D. all of the above

- _____ 2. Which of these do plants NOT need to make food?
 - A. oxygen
 - B. carbon dioxide
 - C. water
 - D. chlorophyll