

Plants

A Science A-Z Life Series

Word Count: 525



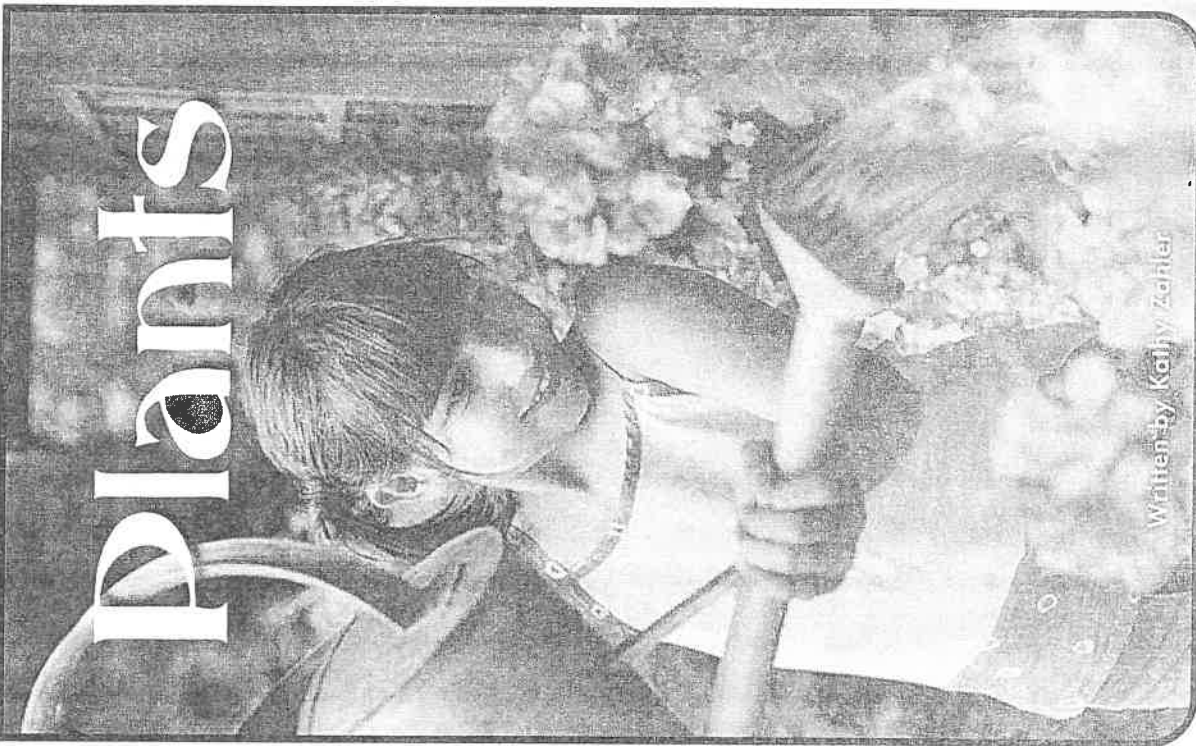
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Written by Kathy Zahler

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KEY ELEMENTS USED IN THIS BOOK

The Big Idea: Many aspects of our lives are affected by or dependent upon plants. In addition to learning about plants, students may gain an appreciation for the amazing diversity of plant life on Earth and the extensive roles plants play in their lives.

Key words: air, animals, cactus, cones, energy, float, flowers, food, fruit, grow, healthy, leaves, light, live, nuts, plants, rainforest, roots, seed, soil, sprout, stems, stored, sunlight, water

Key comprehension skill: Main idea and details

Other suitable comprehension skills: Compare and contrast, summarize, classify information, identify facts, elements of a genre

Key reading strategy: Ask and answer questions

Other suitable reading strategies: Connect to prior knowledge, summarize, visualize

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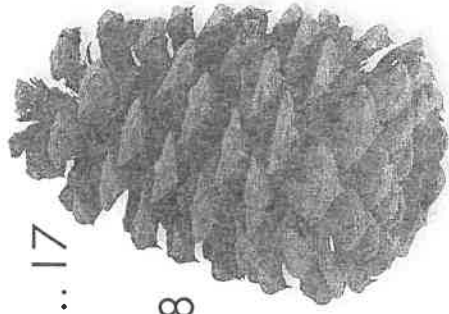
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Introduction

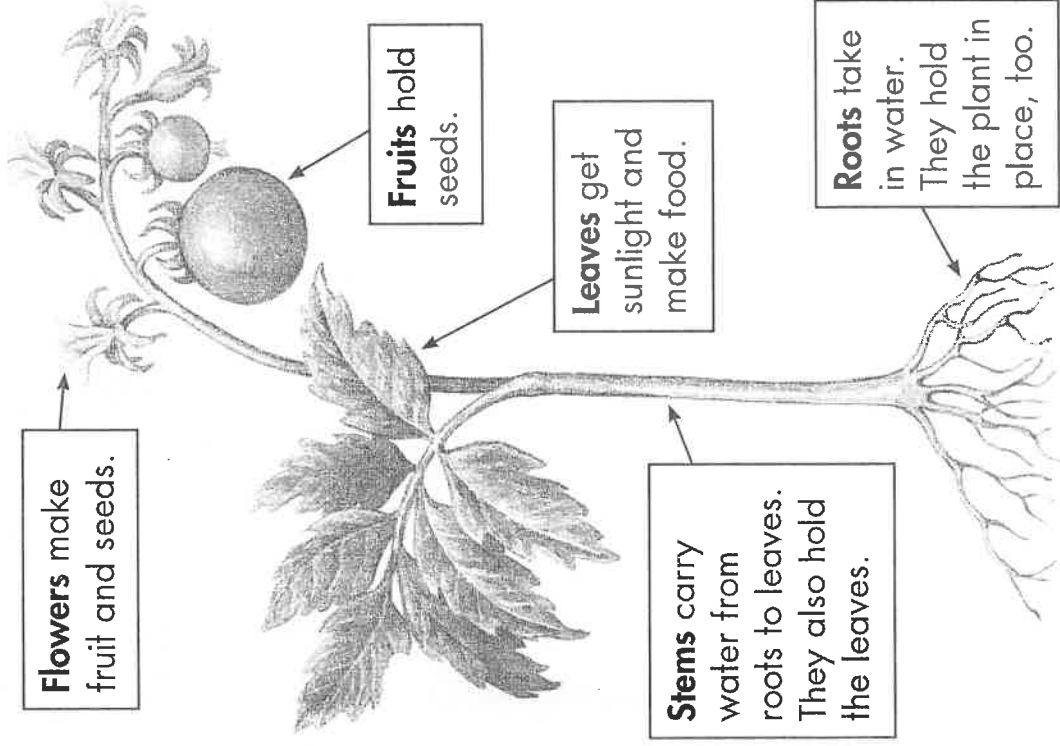
Plants are living things. To stay alive, plants need certain things. Each part of a plant helps it get the things it needs.

In this book you will learn about:

- What plants need.
- What each plant part does.
- How plants make food.
- Where plants live.

4

Plant Parts



What Plants Need

Most plants need six things to live.

- Air
- Light
- Soil
- Food
- Water
- A place to live

Plants use air, water, and light to make food. Making food is a very important job. Animals cannot make their own food. They eat plants or other animals that eat plants.

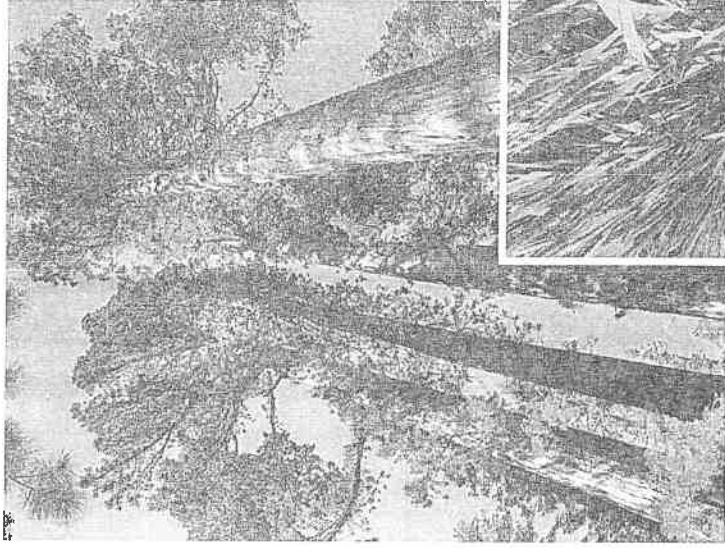
Each part helps a plant get what it needs to live.

Most plants get the water they need through their roots. The roots soak up water found in soil. Some plants have one big root. Other plants have many smaller roots that spread out. Usually, the bigger a plant is, the larger its roots are.

A carrot is the root of its plant.



Grass has many small roots.



These trees each have one big stem that is hard.

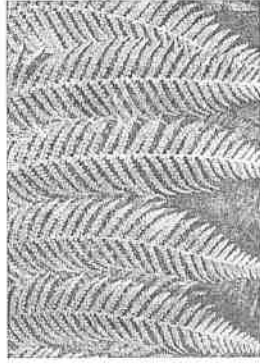


This grass has many small stems that are soft.

Stems carry water from the roots to the leaves and other plant parts. Plants have either soft or hard stems. Some plants have one large stem. Other plants just have many smaller stems.

Most plants make food in their leaves. The leaves use air and water to make food. Air enters through tiny holes on the underside of leaves. The leaves also gather sunlight.

Leaves come in many shapes and sizes.



small, grouped leaves

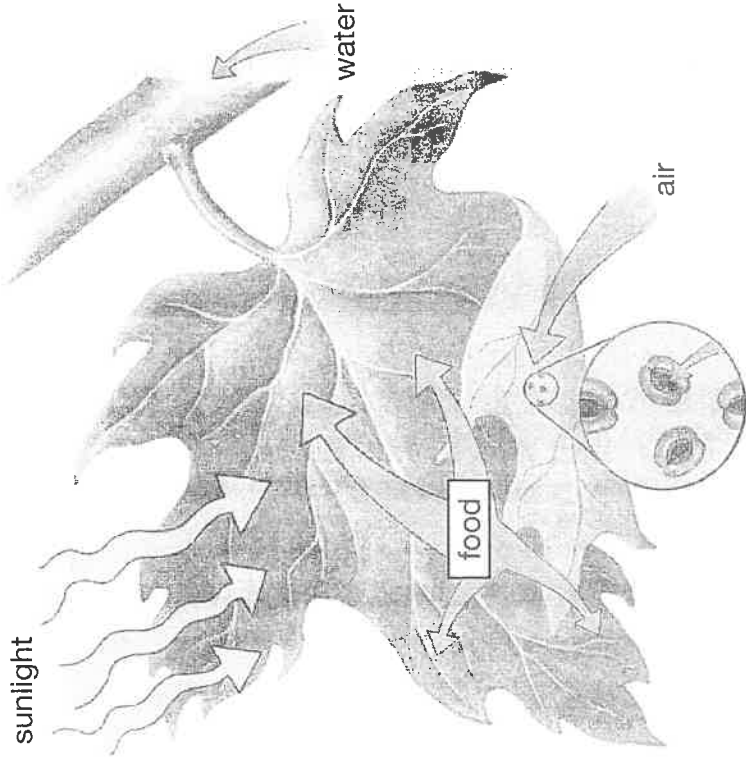
Air enters leaves through tiny holes.



long, thin leaves



large, flat leaf

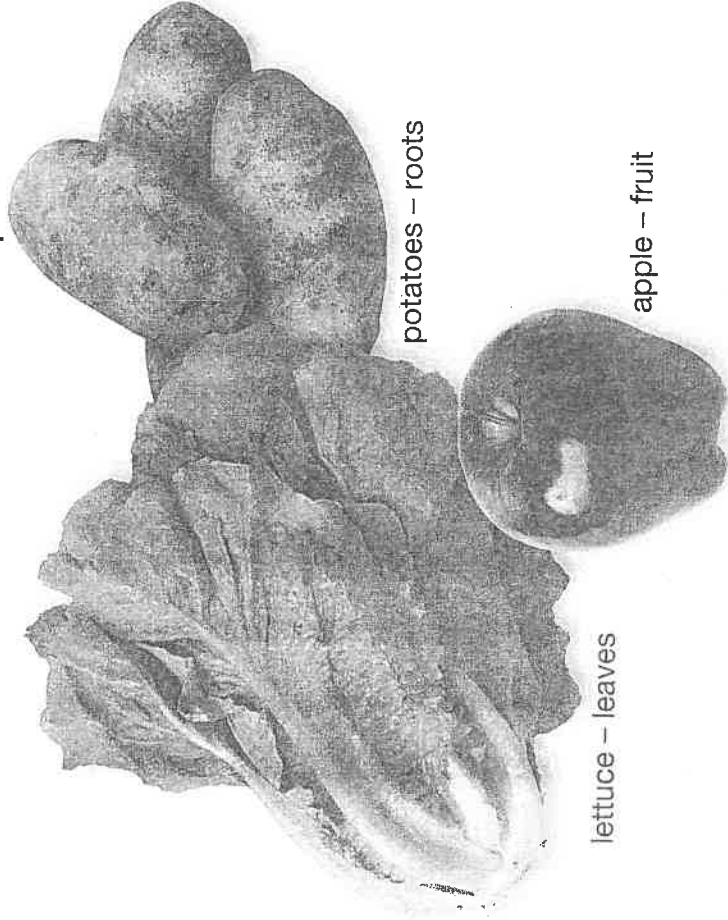


Air and water enter leaves through tiny holes. The leaves combine them with sunlight and make food.

Stems grow toward the Sun to help leaves get sunlight. The energy from sunlight helps plants combine air and water. This makes the food that plants need. Stems carry the food to different parts of a plant.

Food from Plants

Much of the food we eat comes from plants. Plants store the food they make in different parts. Some food is stored in roots and stems. Some is stored in leaves. And some is stored in fruits and nuts. People and other animals eat these parts.



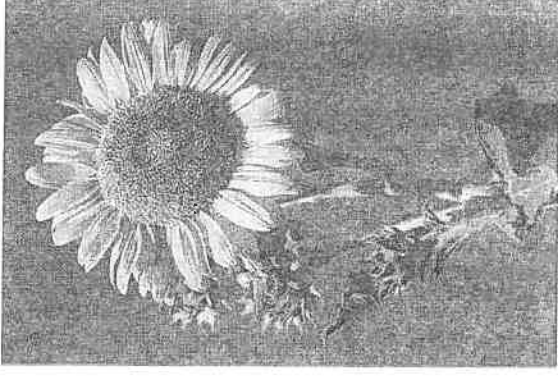
lettuce – leaves

potatoes – roots

apple – fruit



Sunflower plants grow from sunflower seeds.

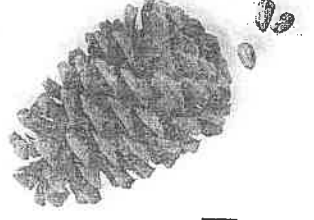


a sunflower plant

From Seed to Plant

Most new plants grow from a **seed**. Seeds are made by flowers. Many flowers become fruit. Seeds are found inside the fruit.

Some plants, like pine trees, have cones instead of flowers. Seeds are made inside the cones.



pine cones and seeds

Seeds come in many shapes and sizes.

Every seed can become a plant.

Seeds need water and air to sprout.

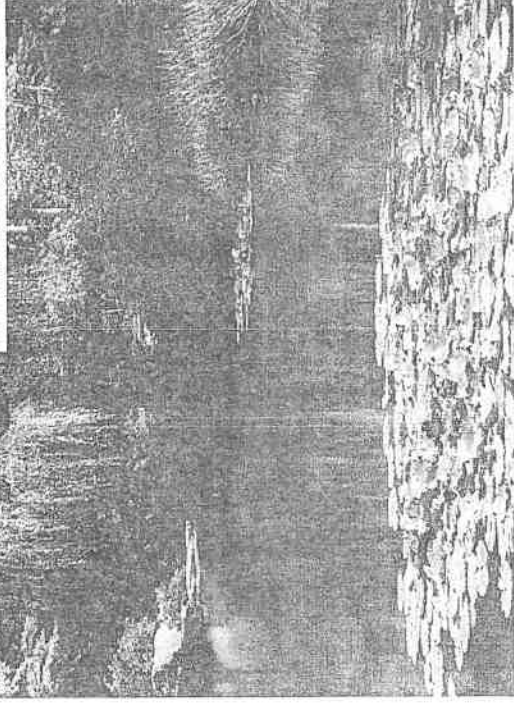
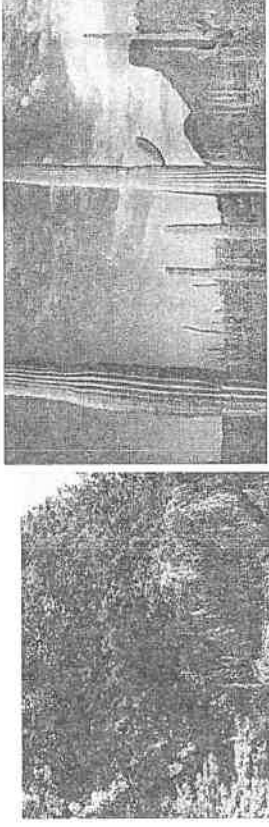
Seeds are carried by air, water, and even animals. If they land in a good place, they can begin to grow.



The seeds of a dandelion are carried by the wind.



This coconut is the seed for a tree.



Plants grow in and near water, but they also grow where it is dry.

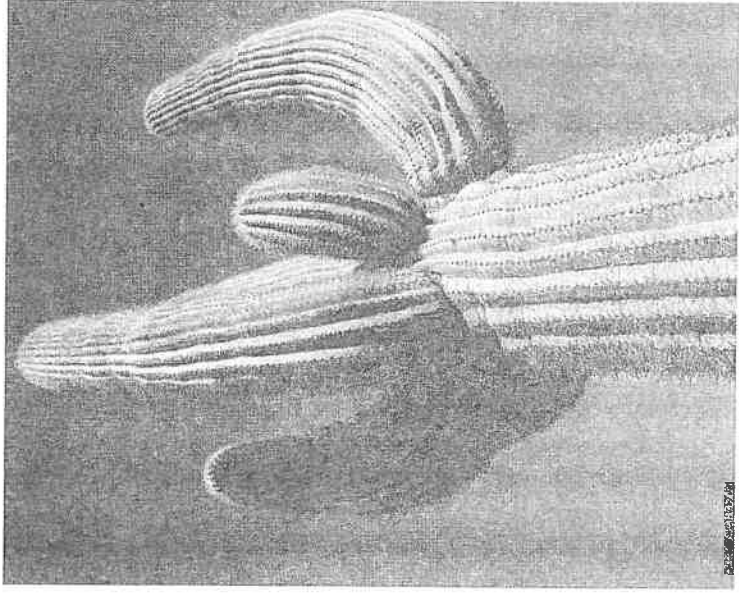
Where Plants Grow

Plants are found growing all around the world. They grow on land and in water. They grow best where it is warm and wet. They can grow in cold places and dry places, too.

Plants that grow in dry places have parts that are different from plants that grow in wet places.

This **cactus** grows in a dry place. It has a thick green stem. Food is made in its stem.

Water is stored in its stem.



A saguaro cactus grows very slowly.



Plants in the rainforest gather sunlight.

This plant grows in a rainforest. It has large leaves to gather sunlight.

This plant grows in fresh water. It has a round shape and floats in the water.



This round plant gives animals a place to hide.

Conclusion

Plants are living things with different parts. Plant parts help plants make their own food. The food they make becomes food for other living things. You eat plant parts every day. They help you grow and keep you healthy.



Bread is made from wheat seeds.

Glossary

cactus	a desert plant with spines (p. 15)
flower	plant part that grows seeds (p. 5)
fruit	plant part that holds seeds (p. 5)
leaf	plant part that catches light and makes food (p. 5)
roots	plant part that takes in water and nutrients and holds the plant in place (p. 5)
seed	plant part that can grow into a new plant (p. 12)
stem	the stalk or trunk of a plant that holds it up and takes water to the leaves (p. 5)