

Plants Need Sunlight and Water

How to use: Print first for the main practice. Then use the device to repeat activities and save progress.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Name what plants need to survive
- 2 Explain what sunlight, water, soil, and air each do for a plant

MINI LESSON

Have you ever wondered why a plant by a sunny window grows tall, but a plant in a dark corner wilts? Plants are living things — and like all living things, they have needs.

Plants need sunlight

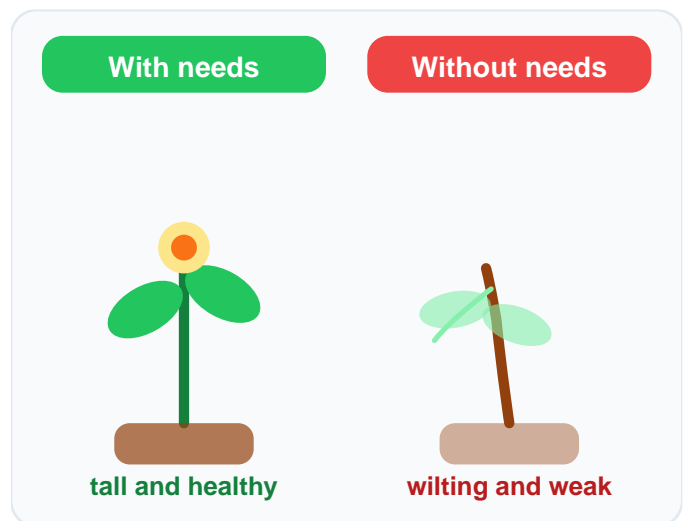
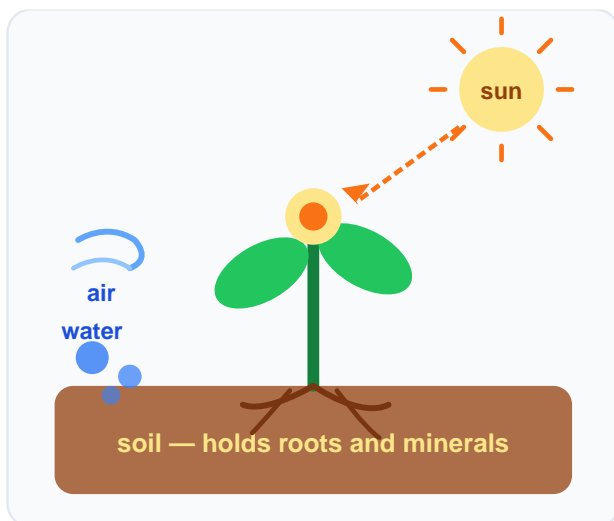
- Sunlight gives plants the energy to make their own food.
- This food-making process is called photosynthesis.
- Example: Leaves face the sun to catch as much light as possible.

Plants need water

- Roots soak up water from the soil and send it up the stem.
- Water carries minerals from the soil to every part of the plant.
- Without water, a plant will wilt and die.

Plants need soil and air

- Soil holds the roots in place and stores minerals the plant uses.
- Plants take in a gas called carbon dioxide from the air through tiny holes in their leaves.
- They use carbon dioxide and sunlight together to make food.



! Ask yourself: "What would happen if I covered the plant's leaves? What if I stopped watering it?"

TRACING PRACTICE

Trace each word, then copy it twice on the lines below.

TRACE

sunlight

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

water

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

soil

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

air

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

roots

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

stem

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

leaves

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

grow

COPY 1

COPY 2

Tip: Sunlight + water + soil + air = a happy, healthy plant!

EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What do plants need to survive?

- sugar, milk, and warmth
- sunlight, water, soil, and air
- sand, wind, and shade

2. What does sunlight do for a plant?

- gives the plant energy to make its own food
- keeps the plant's leaves dry
- makes the plant grow downward

3. What is the job of a plant's roots?

- to catch sunlight from above
- to make flowers bloom
- to drink water from the soil

4. What does soil do for a plant?

- gives the plant sunlight
- holds the roots and stores minerals
- keeps the plant cool at night

5. What happens to a plant if it does not get water?

- it wilts and will die
- it grows faster
- it turns into a cactus

6. What is the main job of a plant's leaves?

- to soak up water from the ground
- to hold the plant in the soil
- to catch sunlight and take in air

7. Why do plants need air?

- to stay warm during the night
- to get carbon dioxide for making food
- to keep insects away from the stem

8. How do plants make their own food?

- using sunlight, water, and air together
- by eating insects that land on them
- by drinking sugar water from the soil

9. A plant is placed in a completely dark room. What will happen?

- it will grow faster without distraction
- it will stay healthy as long as it has water
- it will weaken because it cannot make food

10. Why do plants need the same things as other living things?

- because they live in soil just like worms
- because plants are living things with the same basic needs
- because scientists decided to give plants the same rules

ASSESSMENT

PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Names all four things a plant needs: sunlight, water, soil, and air
- Explains that sunlight gives the plant energy to make its own food
- Explains that roots drink water from the soil and send it up the stem
- Predicts correctly what happens to a plant without water or sunlight