

# What Do Plants Need?

## By Rachelle Kreisman



*Credit: Shihchuan (CC BY-SA 2.0)*

Plants are living things. They depend on water and light to help them grow.

But how do plants find what they need? They get it from the world around them!

Plants get water from the soil. They get light from the sun.

Many plants have roots, stems, and leaves. Roots keep a plant attached to the soil and help the plant take in water. Water moves up the plant's stem to the leaves. The stem also supports the plant so it stays up straight.

A plant's leaves do not just take in water, however. Leaves also take in light energy from the sun. The leaves use the energy and water to make glucose. Glucose is a kind of sugar. It is food for the plant. Yes, plants make their own food! They use it for energy to grow.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Plants depend on water to help them grow. What else do they depend on to help them grow?

- A) people
- B) animals
- C) light

2. A stem supporting a plant is a cause. What is an effect of a stem supporting a plant?

- A) The plant stays up straight.
- B) The plant takes in light energy from the sun.
- C) The plant makes glucose.

3. Plants get what they need from the world around them.

What evidence in the article supports this statement?

- A) Plants are living things that need water to help them grow.
- B) Plants get the water they need from the soil they are in.
- C) Glucose is a kind of sugar that plants use for food.

4. Which parts of a plant help the plant get what it needs?

- A) the leaves ONLY
- B) the stem and leaves ONLY
- C) the roots, stem, and leaves

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A) Plants use water and light to help them grow.
- B) The leaves of a plant take in light energy from the sun.
- C) Glucose is a kind of sugar that plants use for food.

6. Read these paragraphs from the article.

"Plants are living things. They depend on water and light to help them grow. But how do plants find what they need? They get it from the world around them!

Plants get water from the soil. They get light from the sun."

What does the phrase "depend on" mean here?

- A) move
- B) avoid
- C) need

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Plants need water, \_\_\_\_\_ they take in water from the soil.

- A) so
- B) because
- C) but

8. What is food for a plant?

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9. What two things do plant leaves use to make glucose?

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10. Summarize how a plant makes its own food.

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