



Plants

Plants are living things that grow in the ground. A plant starts as a seed and then grows into a seedling with a sprout and roots. The sprout grows above ground and changes into a stem with leaves. The roots grow down under the ground to keep the plant from blowing away. The roots also absorb water and nutrients from the soil. Soon the plant grows flowers, and inside the flowers new seeds will form. Some plants grow fruit or vegetables around the seeds. Some of the new seeds will fall to the ground or be carried to a new place by the wind or animals, and the plant life cycle begins all over again.

Plants need several things to survive. Soil, sunlight, air, and water are essential for plants to stay healthy. Since they don't have mouths to eat food like other living things, plants get energy through a process called photosynthesis. A plant uses energy from the sun, carbon dioxide gas from the air, and water gathered from its roots, to make energy. During the process, a plant releases another gas, oxygen, into the air, which is what people and animals need to breathe.

Plants also provide a lot of the food that we eat. There are about 350,000 known species of plants, and 80,000 of those are edible! However, 90 % of what we eat comes from just 30 species! More than half of the medicines that we use also come from plants, many of them from the rainforest. But, only one percent of rainforest plants have been studied for medicinal purposes.

We use plants for many other things as well. Many of the clothes you wear are made from cotton. Wood from trees is used for building houses, making furniture, and even making paper and pencils like you are using right now!

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Name _____

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Answer the questions below. Use crayons or colored pencils to underline your evidence in the passage.



Why are roots an important part of a plant?



What do plants need for photosynthesis?



What are 2 reasons that plants are important to people?



What are 2 ways that seeds can be moved to a new place?



Make a list of things made from wood. Write as many as you can think of.

Make an inference. Do you think there could be new medicines from plants that we haven't discovered yet?



Circle words or phrases in the passage that gave you a clue.

What are things that your body needs to be strong and healthy?
