3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

How Plants Make Food



Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 139 words | Cause and effect

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Animals have to find their food, but green plants make their own. They use sunlight, water and air. This amazing process is called **photosynthesis.**

2 A plant's roots take in water from the soil. The water travels up the stem to the leaves. At the same time, tiny holes in the leaves let in a gas from the air called **carbon dioxide.**

3 Leaves are green because they contain chlorophyll. Chlorophyll catches energy from sunlight. The plant uses this energy to turn water and **carbon dioxide** into a kind of sugar. The sugar is the plant's food, and it helps the plant grow.

4 **Photosynthesis** also makes **oxygen,** which the plant lets out into the air. People and animals need **oxygen** to breathe. So every time you see a green leaf, remember that it is busy making food and helping you breathe!

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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How Plants Make Food: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. What three things does a plant use to make food?

a sunlight, water and air b seeds, flowers and bees c soil, rocks and wind

2. What makes leaves green?

a sugar b chlorophyll c oxygen

3. Why is photosynthesis important for people?

a it keeps us warm

b it makes rain fall

c it makes oxygen we breathe

2 True or false? Circle one.

Green plants make their own food.	True	False
Water enters a plant through its flowers.	True	False
Photosynthesis makes oxygen.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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3RD GRADE READING · NONFICTION

How Plants Make Food: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

photosynthesis	a gas in the air that people and animals breathe
carbon dioxide	the way plants make food from sunlight
oxygen	a gas in the air that plants take in

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

What would happen to a plant kept in a dark closet? Use the text to explain.

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: How Plants Make Food

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) sunlight, water and air
2. b) chlorophyll
3. c) it makes oxygen we breathe

2 True or false

True: Green plants make their own food.

False: Water enters a plant through its flowers.

True: Photosynthesis makes oxygen.

3 Word meanings

photosynthesis: the way plants make food from sunlight

carbon dioxide: a gas in the air that plants take in

oxygen: a gas in the air that people and animals breathe

4 Written answer (sample) 💡

It could not make food, because it needs sunlight for photosynthesis. It would stop growing and die.

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