SCIENCE

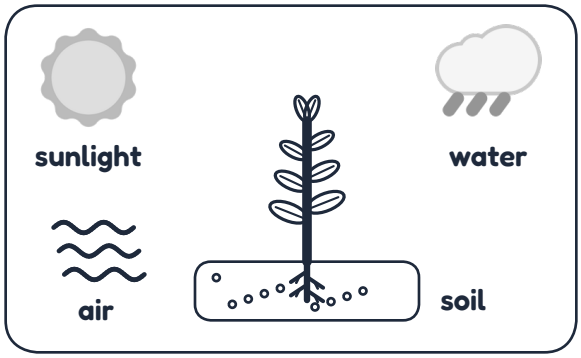
What plants need

Name _____ Date _____

I can name the things a plant needs to live and grow.

1 How it works

Plants are living things, so they have needs, just like you. A plant needs sunlight, water, air and soil. Its leaves use sunlight and air to make food. Its roots drink water and hold on to the soil. A plant also needs space to grow. If a plant does not get what it needs, it droops, turns pale or dies.



2 Circle what a plant needs

A plant needs 4 of these.


ice cream


water


a ball


cookies


sunlight


shoes


soil


air

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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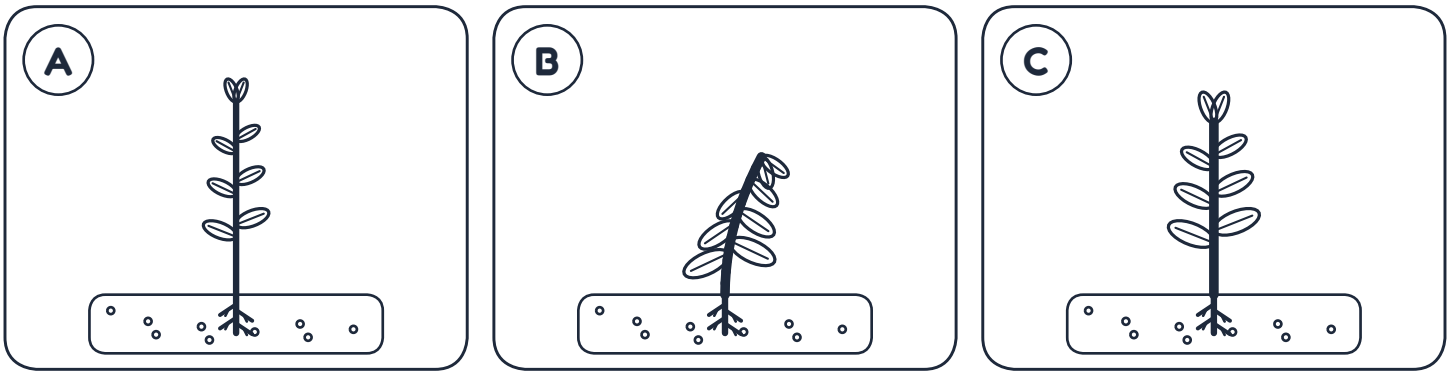
Plants need care

Name _____ Date _____

I can tell what happens when a plant does not get what it needs.

1 What happened to each plant?

Write the letter.



1. **This plant got sun, water and air.** ☐
2. **This plant got no water for a week.** ☐
3. **This plant was kept in a dark closet.** ☐

2 Fill in the blanks

Use the words in the box.

soil **sunlight** **air** **water** **space**

1. Leaves use _____ to make food.
2. Roots drink _____.
3. Leaves take in _____ through tiny holes.
4. Roots grow down into the _____.
5. Plants need _____ to spread out and grow.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Think like a scientist

Name _____ Date _____

I can explain what a plant needs to live and grow.

1 Think about it

1. Why put a house plant by a window? _____
2. What if you forget to water a plant? _____
3. Why do farmers plant seeds far apart? _____
4. How are your needs like a plant's? _____

2 True or false? Circle it.

1. A plant grows well in a dark closet.	true	false
2. Plants need air, just like you.	true	false
3. Plants need sunlight to make food.	true	false
4. Plants get their food from the store.	true	false
5. Roots take in water.	true	false

3 Draw a healthy plant and everything it needs.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Try it: sun or dark?

Name _____ Date _____

I can test if a plant needs light to grow.

1 You need

-  **2 small plants**
-  **2 cups of soil**
-  **water**
-  **a dark cupboard**
-  **a sunny window**

2 What to do

1. Plant one small plant in each cup. Use two plants of the same kind and size.
2. Put one cup by a sunny window. Put the other in a dark cupboard.
3. Give both plants the same water every 2 days.
4. Look at both plants on day 1, day 4 and day 7. Draw them.

3 I predict

Which plant will grow better? Why?

_____

_____

4 What I see

Day	Sunny plant	Dark plant
Day 1		
Day 4		
Day 7		

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: what plants need

1 Page 1

Circle: sunlight, water, air and soil. A plant does not need cookies, a ball, shoes or ice cream.

2 Page 2

Letters: 1) C; 2) B; 3) A.

Blanks: 1) sunlight; 2) water; 3) air; 4) soil; 5) space.

3 Page 3

Think: 1) So it gets sunlight; 2) It droops, dries out and can die; 3) So each plant gets space, light and water; 4) We both need water and air.

True or false: 1) false; 2) true; 3) true; 4) false; 5) true.

Drawing: a green plant with the sun, water, air and soil around it.

4 Page 4: Try it!

The plant in the sun stays green and strong. The plant in the dark turns pale yellow, grows thin and floppy, and leans, because it cannot make food without light. Put it back in the sun and it slowly turns green again. This shows that plants need light to live and grow.

5 Teaching tip

Ask children what they need to live first (food, water, air, a home), then compare with a plant. The big surprise is that a plant makes its own food from sunlight, so it needs light instead of a lunch box.

Safety: wash hands after touching soil. Use a cupboard with no cleaning products in it.

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