

Photosynthesis

Plant Parts

Each part of the plant has a different job that allows it to live, grow, and reproduce.

Stem – moves water and food throughout the plant

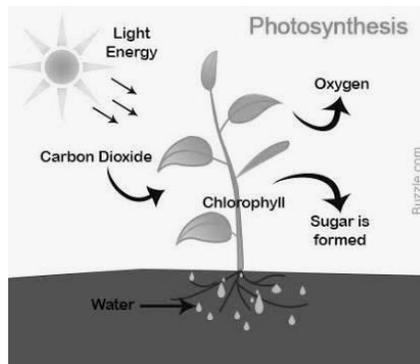
Root – absorbs water and nutrients like a sponge; anchors plant into soil; store food and water

Leaves – food producing factories; where photosynthesis takes place

Photosynthesis

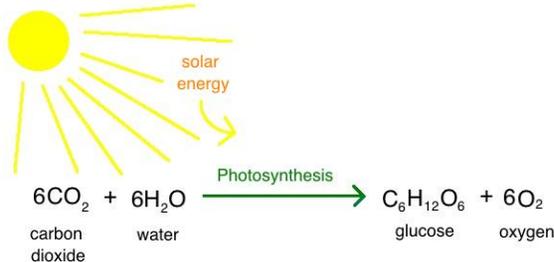
photo = light synthesis = to make

Photosynthesis is the process in which plants use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to produce sugar and release oxygen.

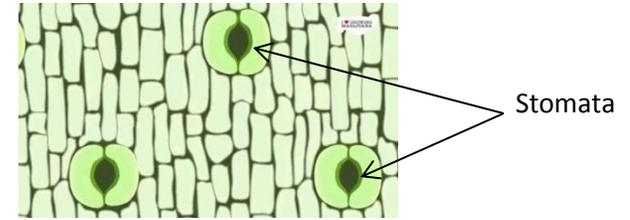


Steps in Photosynthesis:

1. Plant cells in leaves absorb sunlight for energy to power photosynthesis.
2. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O) enter the plant.
3. A reaction powered by the sun turns carbon dioxide and water into glucose (C₆H₁₂O₆) and oxygen(O₂) .
4. Leaves release oxygen into the air.



Carbon dioxide enters the plant through little holes under the leaves. These holes are called stomata. This is also where oxygen exits the plant.



Plants are green because plant cells contain chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is what absorbs sunlight and is located inside of an organelle in the plant cell. This is where photosynthesis takes place.

Not all plants get plenty of sunlight. Plants on the bottom of the rain forest get little sun because tall trees and other plants block the sun. They have adapted to produce large, thin leaves to take in as much sunlight as possible.

Where else might plants have a hard time getting plenty of sunlight?
How do you think they survive?