

What Do Plants Need?

Week 11 — Monday | Welcome to Life Science!

Reading Time

Welcome to our new unit about plants! Plants are living things, just like you. All living things have needs. If their needs are met, they grow. If not, they get weak and can die.

Plants need four main things. First, they need sunlight. Plants use light to make their own food inside their leaves. Second, they need water. Water travels from the roots up to every part of the plant. Third, they need air. Plants take in a gas from the air to help make food. Fourth, they need space and soil to grow. Soil holds the roots and gives plants nutrients.

Have you ever seen a plant in a dark corner? It turns pale and floppy. That plant is missing sunlight! This week we will plan an experiment to test what plants need.

Reading Questions

1. Name the four main things plants need.

2. Where does a plant make its food?

3. What does soil give to a plant?

4. What happens to a plant kept in a dark corner? Why?

Vocabulary Grid

Write a definition or draw a picture for each word.

Sunlight

Water

Air

Soil

Nutrients

Living Thing

Need or Not a Need? Sort

Sort each item. Does a plant need it to live, or not?

Plants Need This	Plants Do NOT Need This

Items to sort: Sunlight, Candy, Water, Television, Air, Toys, Soil, Music

True or False — Circle Your Answer

- ☐ 1. Plants are living things.
- ☐ 2. Plants make their own food using sunlight.
- ☐ 3. Plants do not need water.
- ☐ 4. Roots take water up from the soil.
- ☐ 5. Plants need air to help make food.
- ☐ 6. A plant in the dark grows strong and green.

Draw a plant in sunlight

Draw watering a plant

Draw roots in soil

Compare: Plant Needs and Your Needs

Need	Do plants need it?	Do YOU need it?
Water		
Air		
Sunlight		
Food		

Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: sunlight water air soil roots living

1. Plants use _____ to make food in their leaves.

2. A plant drinks _____ through its roots.

3. Plants take in a gas from the _____.

4. The _____ holds the roots and gives nutrients.

5. The _____ grow down into the ground.

6. Plants are _____ things, just like animals and people.

Plant Needs Research

Find a plant at home or outside. Study it like a scientist!

Research Question	My Answer
Where does this plant get light?	
Where does this plant get water?	
What is this plant growing in?	
Does the plant look healthy? How can you tell?	

Experiment Preview

Coming Wednesday: We will plant seeds and set up a real plant experiment! We will take away one thing a plant needs and see what happens.

Think about it: Which need would you like to test — light or water?

Write your idea below:
