Plants Make Food

Sun's Energy

Water and Minerals from Soil

Carbon Dioxide from Air
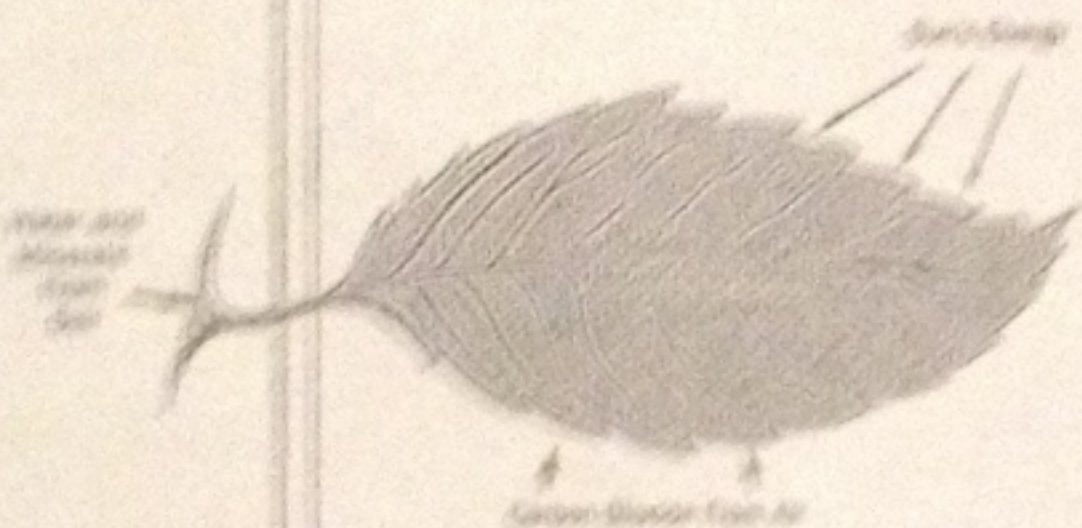
A leaf makes its own food.

Green plants can do something that you cannot do. Green plants can make their own food. People get food from plants or from animals that eat plants.

The way that plants make food is called photosynthesis. Chlorophyll in the plant's leaves takes in energy from the sun. The leaves use the energy to make sugar from carbon dioxide and water. Plants also make fats, proteins, and vitamins. These materials are important for your health. That is why plants are good for you to eat.

The plant lives on the sugar it makes. Sugar that the plant does not use right away is changed into a food called starch. Starch is stored in different parts of the plant. In carrot plants, starch is stored in the root. In cabbages, the starch is stored in the leaves. Food is stored in the stems of celery plants. Animals and people eat the different parts of many plants that store food.

Some plants that live in cold areas lose their leaves in the fall. These plants cannot make food in the winter. They live on their stored food. Other plants do not lose their leaves in the fall. These plants are called **evergreens**. Their leaves are often shaped like needles.

Use the words below to complete the sentences.

chlorophyll	sugar	starch
food	photosynthesis	water

1. Green plants can make their own _____
2. The way that plants make food is called _____
3. The _____ in a plant's leaves takes in energy from the sun.
4. Leaves make sugar from carbon dioxide and _____
5. Sugar that the plant does not use right away is changed into _____

Answer True or False.

1. People do not get food from plants. _____
2. Green plants cannot make their own food. _____
3. Starch is stored in different parts of a plant. _____
4. Plants make fats, proteins, and vitamins. _____
5. A plant lives on the sugar it makes. _____
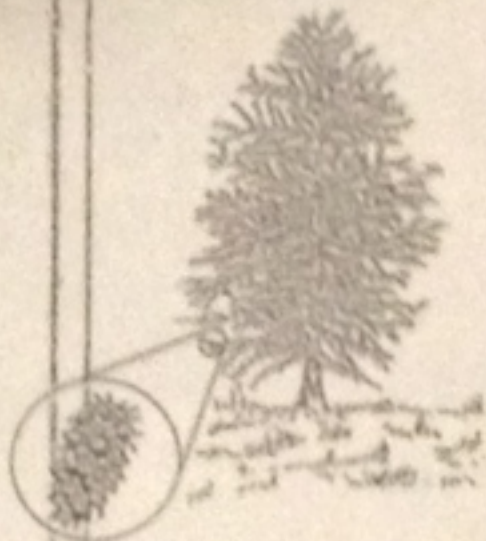6. Animals and people only eat plant roots. _____

Answer the questions.

1. What is photosynthesis? _____

_____

2. What happens to the sugar that a plant does not use right away? _____

_____

_____

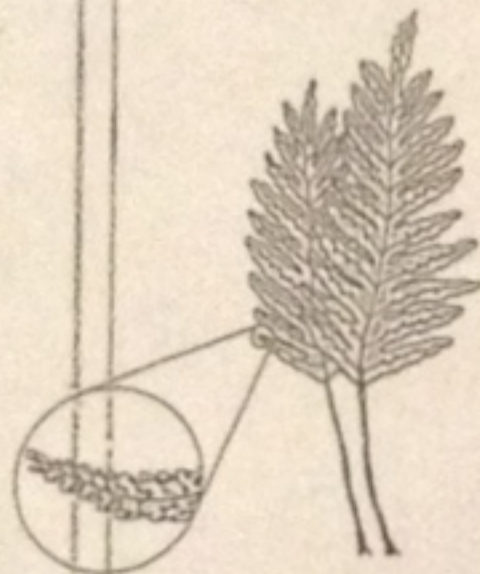3. Where do people get food? _____

How Plants Reproduce

All living things must have a way to reproduce, or make new living things just like themselves. Different plants have different ways to reproduce.

Many plants reproduce from **seeds**. There are two kinds of seed plants. Evergreen plants, like pine trees, make seeds in cones. Flowering plants, such as apple trees, make seeds in flowers.

Seed plants have female parts where seeds grow. The male parts make a yellow powder called **pollen**. Often bees or other insects carry pollen to the female parts. The pollen **fertilizes** the female parts. This means that the pollen enters the female cells. The fertilized female cells make seeds.

Each seed has a tiny new plant inside. Some seeds just fall from the plant to the soil. Maple tree seeds and dandelion seeds are carried far by the wind. Other seeds have coverings that can stick to an animal's fur. When the seeds drop onto moist soil, they grow into new plants.

Some plants can reproduce from parts of themselves. Strawberry plants have stems that run along the ground. These stems can grow roots and make new plants. Many grasses reproduce in the same way. Their stems run underground and can also make new plants.

Mosses and ferns reproduce from **spores**. Spores are special cells that can live a long time without water. When spores do get enough water, they grow into new plants.

Pine Tree and Cone

Strawberry Plant With Runner

Spores on a Fern

Use each word to write a sentence about plants.

1. seeds _____

_____

2. cones _____

_____

3. pollen _____

_____

Fill in the missing words.

1. Different plants have different ways to _____. (make food, reproduce)

2. Each seed has a tiny new _____ inside. (plant, spore)

3. Pine trees make seeds in _____. (flowers, cones)

4. Apple trees make seeds in _____. (flowers, cones)

5. Strawberry plants have _____ that run along the ground and make new plants. (stems, leaves)

6. Mosses and ferns reproduce from _____. (pollen, spores)

Answer the questions.

1. What are three ways that plants reproduce? _____

_____

_____

_____

2. What are spores? _____

_____

3. The male parts of seed plants make pollen. What does pollen do?

_____

_____