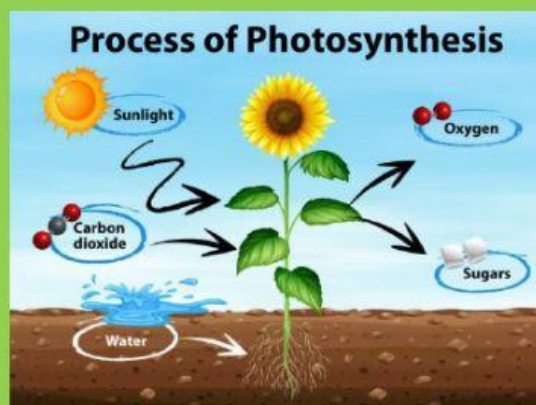


Name _____

SCIENCE

PHOTOSYNTHESIS



A baby eats only milk. Cows eat grass. Birds eat bugs. You eat lots of different foods. Babies, cows, birds, and you need to eat food to get energy. Energy is needed for us to **live** and **grow**. Plants live and grow, too. But what do plant eat?

Plants make their own food. How do they do it? They get energy from the sun's light. They use that energy, along with water and gas from the air, to make their own food. This is called **photosynthesis**.

During Photosynthesis plants use **light energy**, to change **water** and **Carbon Dioxide** into **sugar/glucose** (food). Sunlight is taken (absorbed) in by **chlorophyll** in the leaves and other green parts of a plant. Chlorophyll is a chemical found in special structures in plant cells called **chloroplasts**. Water is transported from the roots to the leaves and stems through the vascular tissue and carbon dioxide enters the plant through tiny openings in the leaves called **stomata**.

When plants make food (sugar) they **transform** (change) light energy into **chemical energy**.

Plants use most of the food they make to carry out life functions such as growth, repair, and reproduction. Any extra food is changed into **starch** and other nutrients and stored in the plant. When animals eat plants, the animals change the starch back into sugar and use the sugar to provide energy for carrying out their necessary functions.