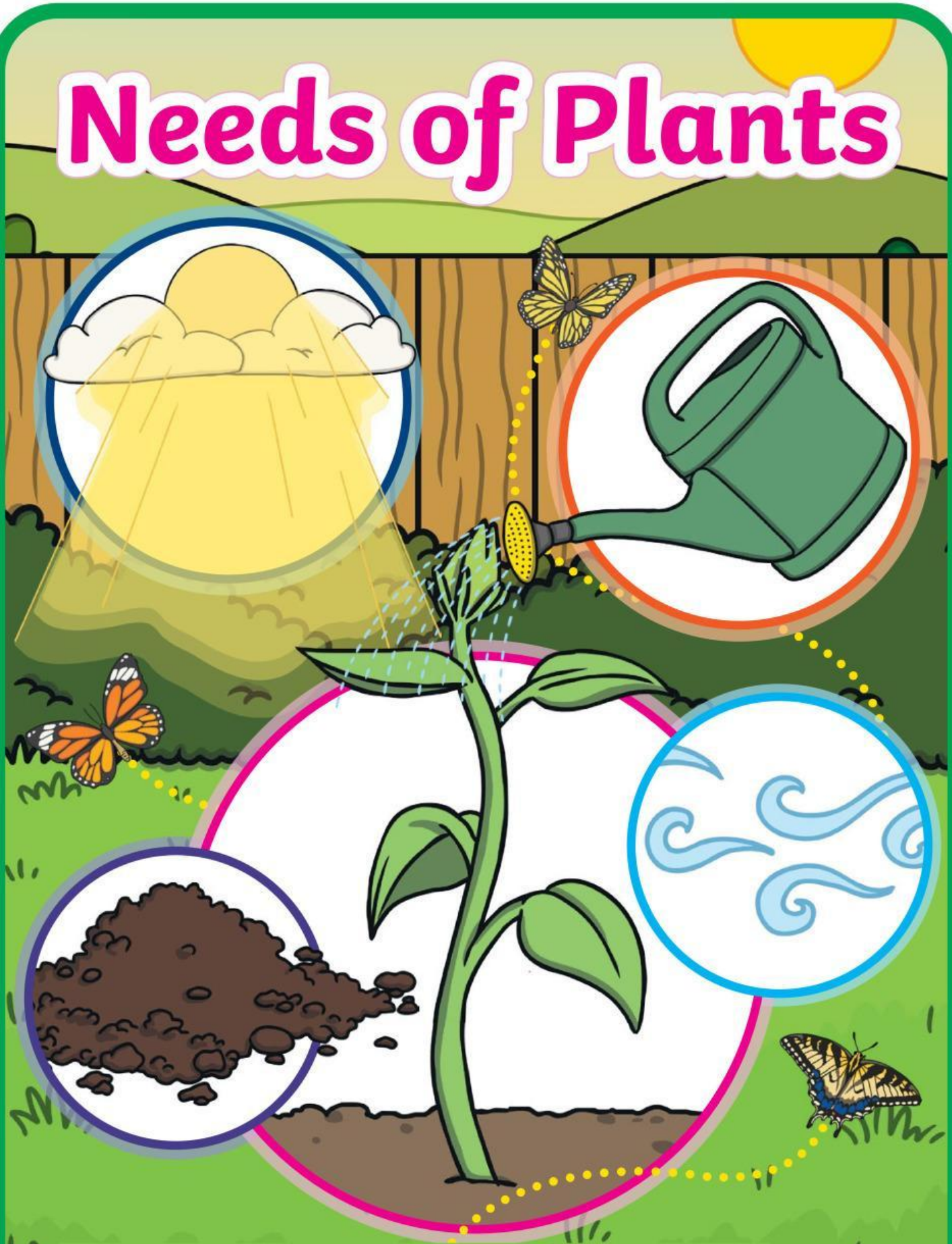
Needs of Plants



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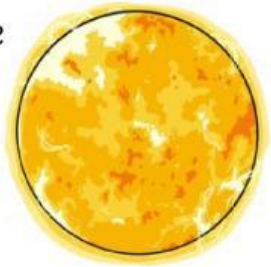
Activity 1 Needs of Plants

All plants need these things to grow and keep living.

Sun

Plants need sunlight to help them make their own food and grow well. Some plants have big leaves to absorb lots of light. Some plants need bright light to grow and some can live in shadows with less light.



Water

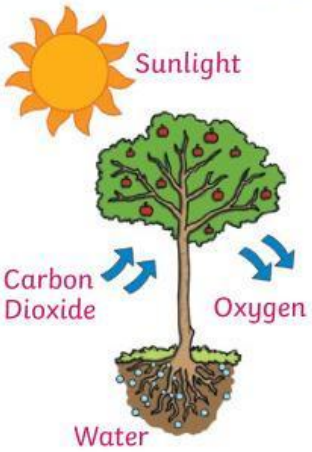
Plants need water to survive just like us! Water helps plants to carry nutrients from the soil to different parts of the plant. Some plants need a lot and some only need a little. Plants absorb water through their roots and a little bit through their leaves.

Air

Plants take in gases from the air. Carbon dioxide and oxygen are needed by plants. They need carbon dioxide to make their own food. Humans take in oxygen and let out carbon dioxide, but plants are different - they take in carbon dioxide and give out oxygen.

Food

Plants also need food. They make their own food using water, sunlight and a gas from the air-this is called photosynthesis (say fow·tow·sin·thuh·suhs).



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Soil

Healthy soil provides plants with nutrients. Roots can grow in soil. Healthy soil is important for plant growth.

Space

Plants need enough room to grow properly.

Temperature

Different plants grow well in different temperatures. Usually, when plants get too hot or too cold they will die.

Watch this video to learn more.

What happens if plants don't get what they need? If plants don't get the right amount of what they need, they won't grow well or won't grow at all. Plants need sun, water, air, food, soil, space and the right temperature, then they can survive.

What do plants need to survive?

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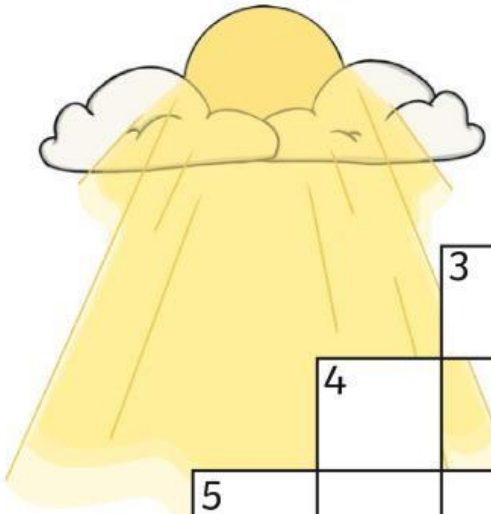
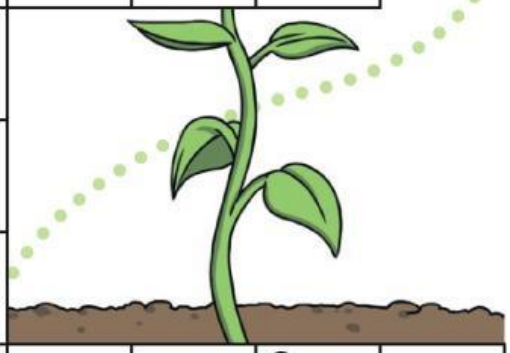
Activity 2 Crossword

Word bank

soil	space	survive	air	nutrients
food	water	cold	sunlight	die





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Clues

Across

3. [ ]: Plants can take in a little bit through their leaves but mostly through their roots.

5. Plants need [ ] to help them make their own food and grow well.

6. [ ]: Roots can grow in this.

7. Plants need room or [ ] to grow.

9. If a plant does not get what it needs, it can [ ].

10. Plants can make their own [ ].

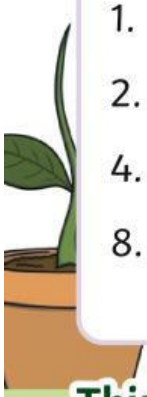
Down

1. [ ]: Plants can absorb these through water from the soil.

2. Plants need [ ] just like humans.

4. Plants need some things to live or [ ].

8. Plants need the right temperature. They cannot get too hot or too [ ].



Think about it!

What does a healthy and unhealthy plant look like?

Are unhealthy plants getting the things they need?

What would happen to a plant if you gave it too much water or too much sunlight?

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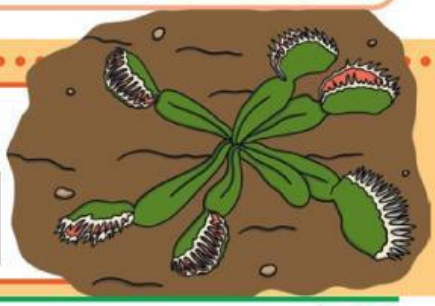
Activity 3 Word Search

a	s	p	a	c	e	b	p	w	h	f	o	o	d
o	n	g	l	e	w	d	a	a	n	b	v	t	u
s	e	r	l	u	d	b	l	i	v	e	r	v	b
o	e	o	r	o	i	y	u	d	d	c	t	i	h
i	d	w	w	q	e	e	l	s	s	d	e	c	n
l	c	c	b	t	n	u	t	r	i	e	n	t	s
e	o	s	u	n	l	i	g	h	t	x	j	q	p
k	l	z	g	g	g	l	g	a	u	y	l	d	k
d	d	v	t	e	m	p	e	r	a	t	u	r	e
p	h	o	t	o	s	y	n	t	h	e	s	i	s
w	a	t	e	r	s	a	a	f	r	h	p	f	m
t	s	u	r	v	i	v	e	a	i	f	a	i	r

soil	space	survive	air	nutrients
photosynthesis	need	grow	temperature	live
food	water	cold	sunlight	die

Think about it!

Can plants eat animals?



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Activity 4 Eye Spy

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Count the pictures and write down how many you found of each.

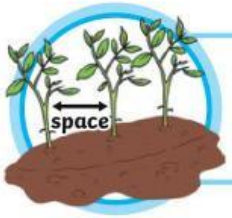
healthy plant ☐

rain ☐

soil ☐

correct temperature ☐

sun ☐



space ☐

watering can ☐

unhealthy plant ☐

air ☐

Can you find some healthy and unhealthy plants in your yard or park? How many plants can you find in five minutes?

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Activity 5 Songs

Growing Plants Song

(Sing to the tune of 'London's Burning'.)

Dig a small hole, dig a small hole.
Put the seed in, put the seed in.
Cover, cover! Cover, cover!
Pour on water, pour on water.

It is growing, it is growing.
See a seedling, see a seedling.
Growing, growing! Growing, growing!
Sun and water, sun and water.

Flowers blooming, flowers blooming.
Fruits are growing, fruits are growing.
New seeds! New seeds!
Starts again and starts again.

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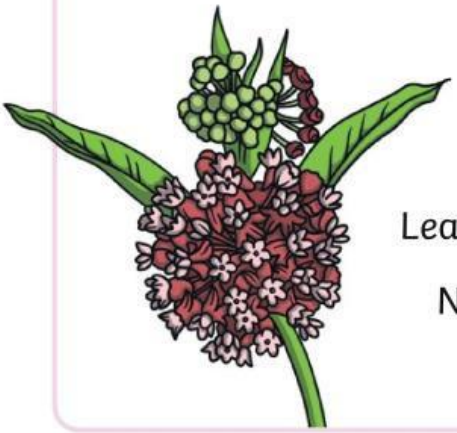
How to Make the Flowers Grow Song

(Sing to the tune of 'Polly Put the Kettle On'.)

How to make the flowers grow,
How to make the fruit trees grow,
How to make the barley grow,
Sun, sun, sun.



Sun and rain and sun again,
Leaves make food, plants grow again.
New leaves grow from one to ten.
Sun, sun, sun.

What things do plants need?

Write your own short poem or song about what plants need.

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Activity 6 Odd One Out

Which is the odd one out?

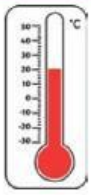
1

water

seeds

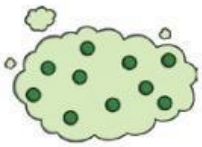
rain

2



temperature

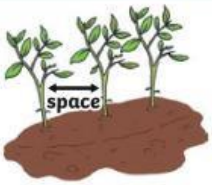
air



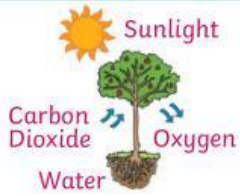
gas

3

food



space



photosynthesis

4

sunlight

water

light

5

earth

soil

wind

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Why did you choose each of those items as the odd ones out?

1

2

3

4

5

Did You Know...?

Plants get the water they need from rivers, oceans, creeks, underground water, melted snow, rain or humidity in the air.

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Activity 7 Science Activity

Plant Growth Prediction

Plant some seeds such as cress and follow the growing conditions below. Predict how the seeds will grow. Keep them for about one week and look at them. How do they compare to your predictions?

Growing Conditions How the seed will be planted.	**Prediction** How the plant will grow.	**How the plant grew**
The seed will be given water and sunlight.		
The seed will be given water and no sunlight.		
The seed will be given sunlight and no water.		
The seed will not be given water and sunlight.		

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Activity 8 Say and Act

Quinton sees lots of weeds in the garden and says, "Plants don't need anything to survive because they are growing everywhere."

Is Quinton correct? What would you say to him?

Lauren is watering the garden and says, "You cannot overwater a plant because all plants need water."

Is Lauren correct? What would you say to her?

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Amos says, "You can give a plant water and no sunlight because that is all they need."

Is Amos correct? What would you say to him?

Act It Out

Tick each one off as you act it out. Act like...

- ☐ you are a plant that needs some water
- ☐ you are a plant that has been put into a dark corner and you need more sunlight
- ☐ you are writing different plant care tags for plants in a nursery
- ☐ you are the host of a gardening show and you are explaining what different plants need

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