Photosynthesis



Photosynthesis is the process by which plants transform light energy into chemical energy. Plants use this energy to make their own food. The light energy they capture is used to convert carbon dioxide, water, and minerals into oxygen.

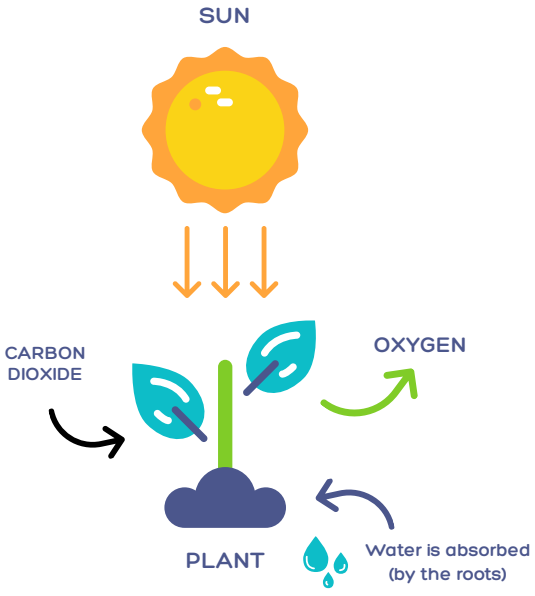
Chlorophyll

Pigment that gives plants their green color and helps in the process of photosynthesis.

Did you know?

There are other organisms besides plants that can photosynthesize, such as algae and the emerald green sea slug.

The Process of Photosynthesis



Plants absorb water and carbon dioxide and use the energy from the sun to turn them into food.

Inside the plant cell, water is oxidized, loses electrons and is transformed into oxygen. Carbon dioxide is reduced, gains electrons and is transformed into glucose.

Oxygen is released and glucose is stored within the plant as energy.

The Formula of Photosynthesis

$$6CO_2 + 6H_2O \longrightarrow C_6H_{12}O_6 + 6O_2$$

CARBON DIOXIDE · WATER · SUGAR · OXYGEN

Sources: Encyclopedia Britannica and National Geographic