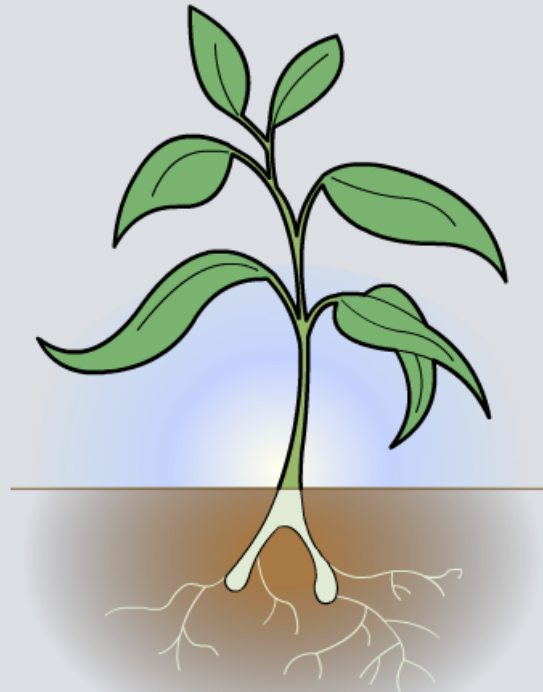


Photosynthesis 1



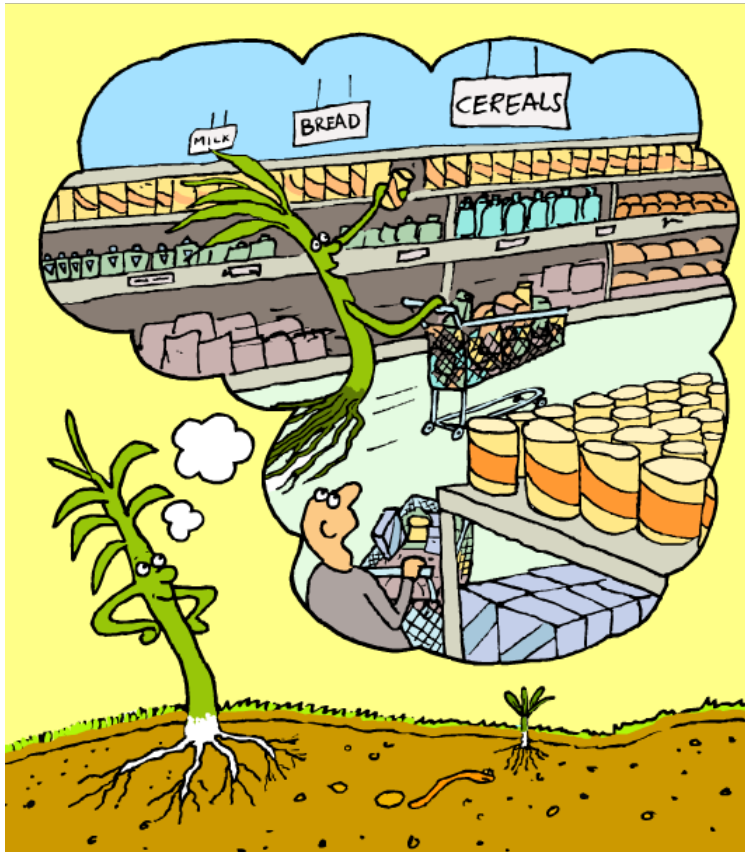
Using plants



How do plants get the food they need?

All living organisms need food to grow and survive.

This is because food provides raw materials for growth and energy for chemical reactions.



Plants are known as **producers** because they provide food for many other organisms.

Without plants, other organisms would have **no** raw materials for growth or energy.

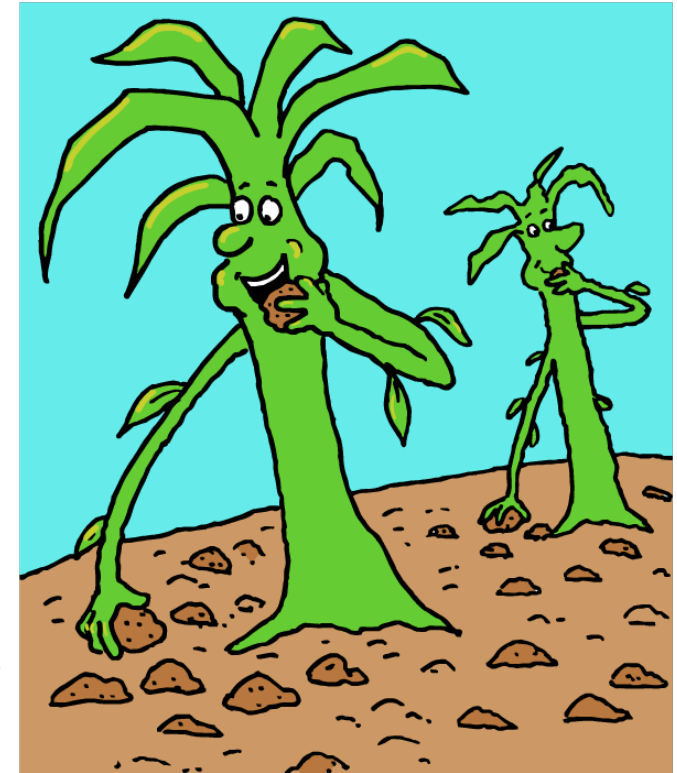
Unlike animals, plants cannot move very much, so how do they get the food that they need?

Do plants eat soil?

It used to be thought that plants got their food from the soil.

This was proved to be untrue by measuring the mass of the soil in a plant pot before and after growth. The soil did not decrease in mass, even though plant mass increased.

Later experiments showed that plants actually **make their own food!**



Plants are among the only living organisms that can do this.

This means that nearly all other organisms rely on plants.

What is the name of the process by which plants make food?

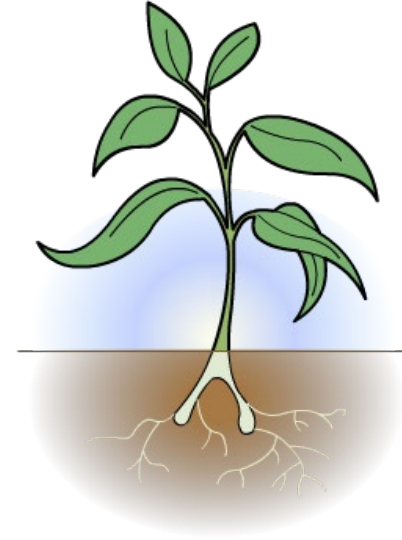
What is photosynthesis?

Plants make their own food by **photosynthesis**.

This process is a chemical reaction that uses **light energy**.



light energy



The word **photosynthesis** comes from the Greek language:

- **'photo'** means **'light'**
- **'synthesis'** means **'putting together'**

Photosynthesis just means **'putting together with light'**.