

Plant Survival

How do plants survive?

What is a plant?

Plants are living things that change with the seasons. They live in different habitats.



Cacti grow in desert habitats.



Daisies grow in meadow habitats.

What does a plant need to grow?

What plants need to grow

Plants need sunlight, warmth, nutrients, water, air and space to grow and be healthy.

sunlight

Plants need sunlight to make food. In shady places, plants grow slowly.

warmth

Plants need warmth to help them make food and grow quickly.

nutrients

Plants need nutrients to help them grow well and fight diseases. Nutrients are taken from the soil through the roots.

water

Plants take in water through their roots. The water carries nutrients around the plant.

air

Plants take in a gas from the air, called carbon dioxide, through their leaves. They need this gas to make food.

space

Plants need space to grow. If an area is overcrowded, the nutrients and water in the soil are used up. Overcrowding also blocks sunlight.



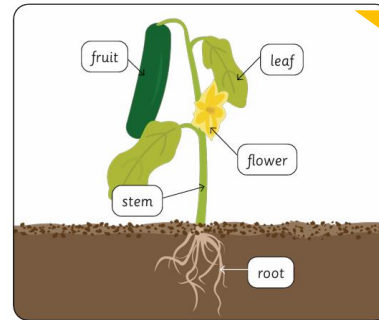
healthy aubergine plant



unhealthy aubergine plant

What are the parts of a plant?

A plant has different parts. These include roots, a stem and leaves. Some plants have flowers and fruit, such as the cucumber plant.



What different types of plant are there?

What observations can you make about the conditions plants need to survive and be healthy?

Trees can be deciduous or evergreen. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in autumn and have bare branches in winter. Evergreen trees shed old leaves and grow new leaves all year round, which means they keep their leaves in winter.



Unusual plants

Not all plants need the same things to grow well. Some unusual plants in the world have developed ways to survive in their habitats. Reindeer moss survives in cold polar habitats. It is inactive for long periods of time to save energy.



reindeer moss

What is germination?

Germination is the first stage of plant growth when a seed starts to grow.

Seeds need warmth and water to germinate. Seeds do not need light to germinate because they start to grow underground in the dark. The food stored inside the seed helps it to start growing.

