

Life Cycle of Plants

Just like all living things, plants go through a certain cycle. All plants begin as a seed. This is the first stage of a plant's life cycle.



When a seed is planted and is provided with the right conditions, a small plant breaks out of the seed. This is called germination. As a seed begins to sprout, a root grows from it.

The seed breaks open and a young plant, or seedling, appears. The seedling begins to form the parts it will need as an adult plant. The roots grow longer, and the stem begins to grow. The seedling breaks through the soil.



The plant grows into a mature plant! The plant may produce flowers or fruit. The plant will also create seeds for new plants!

Depending on the plant's life span, the plant will eventually wither and die. Some plants, such as a daisy, will live for a few months. Some plants may live for hundreds of years, such as a redwood tree.



Life Cycle of Plants Quick Check

1. When a plant germinates, _____
 - a) it withers and dies
 - b) a small plant breaks out of the seed
 - c) a seed is planted
 - d) a bee pollinates the flower

2. A seedling is a _____
 - a) mature plant
 - b) a seed
 - c) a young plant
 - d) stored food

Place the statements in order of a plant's life cycle, by ordering the events 1-5.

- _____ The seed germinates and the seed begins to sprout.
- _____ A daisy seed is planted in the soil and watered during the spring.
- _____ The daisy withers and dies in the winter.
- _____ The daisy seedling grows into a mature plant.
- _____ A daisy seedling begins to grow, the roots grow longer, and the seedling breaks through the soil.

Photosynthesis Quick Check

1. Which statement is not true about photosynthesis?
 - a) Chlorophyll helps the plant use energy from the sun.
 - b) Water and carbon dioxide combine inside a plant to make food.
 - c) The food the plant makes is a kind of sugar.
 - d) During photosynthesis, plants make carbon dioxide for people to breathe.

2. True or False Photosynthesis makes the leaves in a plant green.

3. True or False Photosynthesis is the plant's food making process.

4. True or False Plants and Humans depend on one another for survival.

5. What four things does a plant need to make food through photosynthesis?

Plants & Their Food

Like other animals, you cannot make food in your body. You must get food by eating. Plants, however, can make their own food. This food making process is called photosynthesis.

The leaves of most plants are green. Plants get their green color from the chemical chlorophyll. *Chlorophyll* helps the plant use energy from the sun to make food. Plants need *light* to make food. They also need *water* and *carbon dioxide*.

During photosynthesis, water and carbon dioxide combine inside a plant to make food. Sunlight provides the energy needed for this to happen. The food the plant makes is a kind of sugar. The plant uses some of the sugar right away and stores the rest.

During photosynthesis, plants also make oxygen. The oxygen is given off into the air through the plant's leaves. Plants give humans and animals oxygen. When we breathe out, we give plants the carbon dioxide they need! This is an example of an interdependence!

