

How Plants Grow

Learning Objective:

To identify and describe the functions of leaves in flowering plants.



Do plants
need food?



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Plants need energy to grow.



Where do they get their energy from?

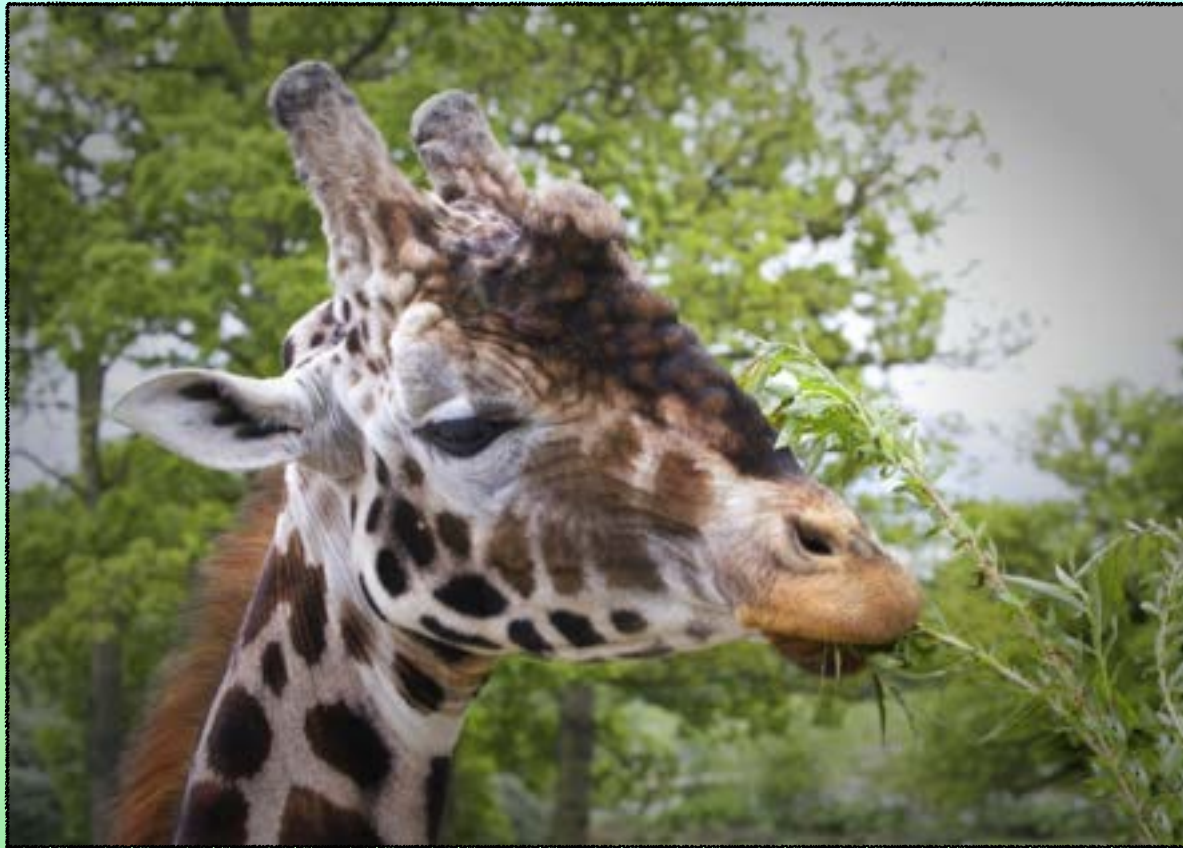
Discuss your ideas.

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Food is a store of energy. All living things need energy to grow and survive.



Animals need to eat plants and other animals for energy, but plants produce their own food.

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Do
you know all of the
things that plants need
to grow?



Discuss your ideas.

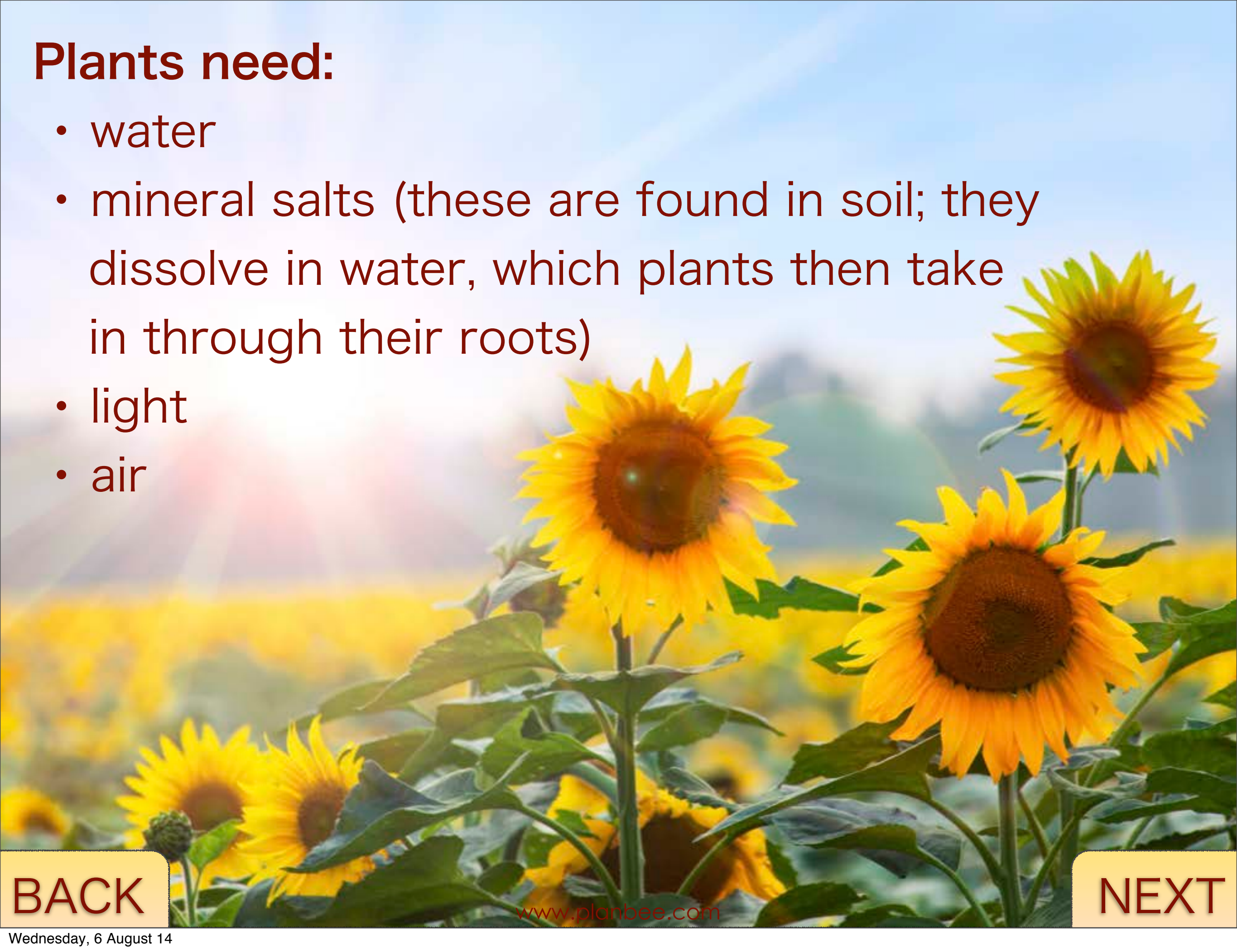
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Plants need:

- water
- mineral salts (these are found in soil; they dissolve in water, which plants then take in through their roots)
- light
- air



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Plants lose lots of the water they take up from the soil through tiny pores in their leaves. The water **evaporates** through these pores.



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These pores are important because the leaves need to take in air as well as sunlight to make their own food. This process is called **photosynthesis**.

The leaves make a chemical called **chlorophyll**, which is used to turn sunlight into energy. It also turns the leaves green in colour!



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How
do seeds start to grow if they are in
the shade or under the surface of the soil?
It is harder for light and air to reach
them there!



Discuss your ideas.

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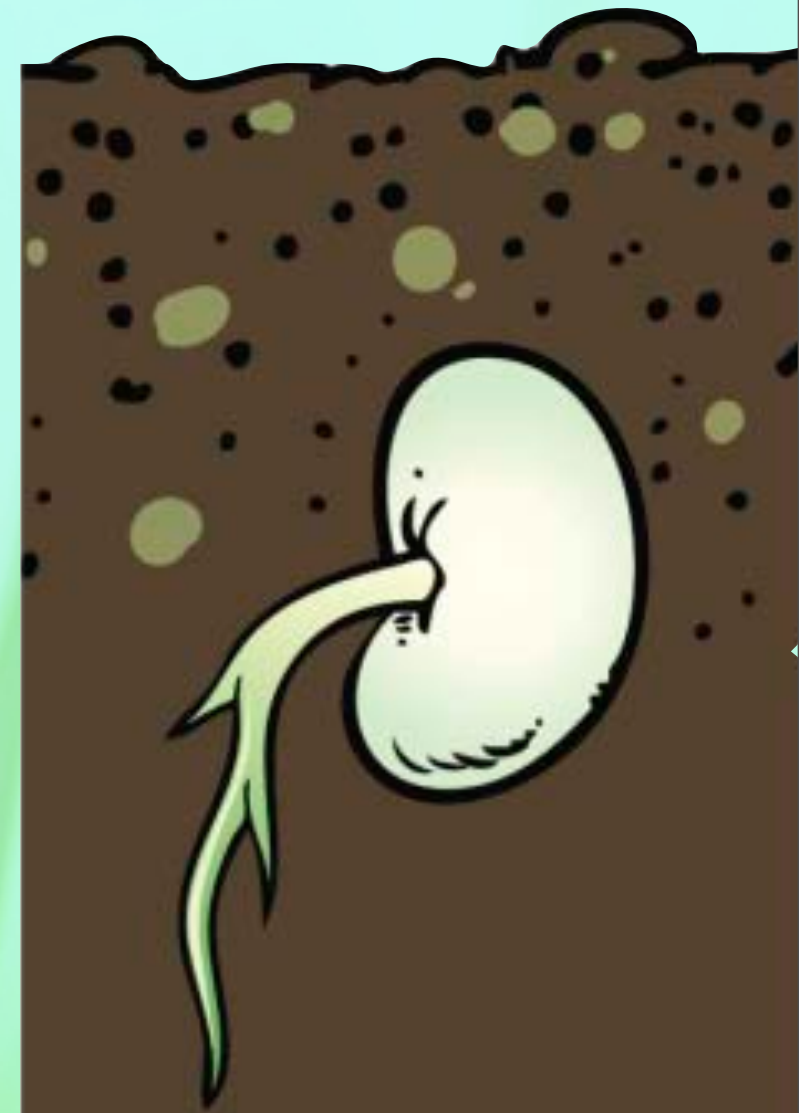
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Seeds contain a small store of food that the plant uses to start growing.

This means that it does not need light and air straight away.

What do you think happens if the seed is too deep in the soil, or has fallen in an area without much sunlight?



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Today
we will be learning more about
how leaves make food, and how this
process fits into the life cycle of
flowering plants.



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