

Plants Around Us

Have you ever looked closely at the plants around you? Plants are living things that grow in the soil, in water, and sometimes even on other plants! They are all around us and very important for our life and for the Earth.

What Are Plants?

Plants are living organisms that make their own food using sunlight. This process is called *photosynthesis*. They have parts like roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits. Each part has a special job.

Parts of a Plant

- **Roots:** They grow underground and hold the plant in the soil. Roots take water and nutrients from the earth.
- **Stem:** The stem holds the plant up and carries water and food to different parts.
- **Leaves:** Leaves are green and use sunlight to make food for the plant.
- **Flowers:** Flowers help plants make seeds so new plants can grow.
- **Fruits and Seeds:** Fruits protect the seeds. Seeds grow into new plants.

Did You Know? The biggest flower in the world is called Rafflesia and it can grow up to one meter wide!

Types of Plants Around Us

We see many plants every day. They can be small, like grass, or very tall, like trees. Here are some types:

- **Trees:** Big plants with wooden stems. Examples: Mango tree, Banyan tree.
 - **Shrubs:** Smaller than trees but have many stems. Example: Hibiscus.
 - **Herbs:** Small plants with soft stems. Example: Mint, Tulsi.
 - **Climbers:** Plants that need something to climb on. Example: Money plant.
 - **Water Plants:** Plants that grow in water. Example: Lotus, Water lily.
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Why Are Plants Important?

Plants give us many things! They provide us with food, fresh air, medicine, and shelter. Plants also help keep the soil healthy and clean the air by giving out oxygen.

Try this at home:

Plant a seed in a pot and watch it grow! Note down how it changes every day.

Exercises

1. Draw and label the parts of a plant.
 2. Name three trees and three herbs you see near your home.
 3. Why do plants need sunlight?
 4. List two benefits we get from plants.
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End of Lesson 2