

To the Teacher
Background Information

Vocabulary to Know

Germinate – to start to grow

Chlorophyll – green pigment in leaves that helps plants make food

Photosynthesis – make food from light, water, nutrients, and CO₂

Roots – anchor the plant, absorb water and minerals

Stem – pushes toward the light

Nutrients – food, air, water, vitamins, minerals

Seed coat – protects seed from extreme temperatures and water

Self- and cross-pollination – transfer of pollen from stamen to pistil

Seed dispersal – wind-borne, sticking to animals, eaten by animals, floaters, shot from pods

Plant adaptations – special features that allow a plant to live in a specific biome

Biome – area with characteristic climate, plants, and animals

How Plants Help

- Make soil
- Make oxygen
- Provide animal habitats
- Provide animal protection
- Change rainfall patterns
- Alter climate in an area
- Provide food for animals
- Provide food for humans
- Provide shelter for animals
- Provide shelter for humans
- Provide shade
- Help to moderate temperatures
- Help prevent erosion
- Provide cloth
- Provide energy
- Provide medicine
- Provide esthetics

Survival Parts

Thorns

Spines

Camouflage

Water plants' leaves repel water

Poison in leaves

Shallow or long roots for desert rain

Spines instead of leaves in the desert where
water evaporates through pores

Succulents in the desert store water

Growth Parts

Seed

Roots provide water and nutrients

Stem provides water and nutrients

Leaves make food

Reproduction Parts

Flower

Seeds

Stickers

Aerodynamic in the wind

Stamens/pistils

Bright petals

Smell

Behavior

Leaves, stem move toward light

Roots grow toward water

Vines search for objects to climb

When touched, plant closes

Venus fly trap catches prey