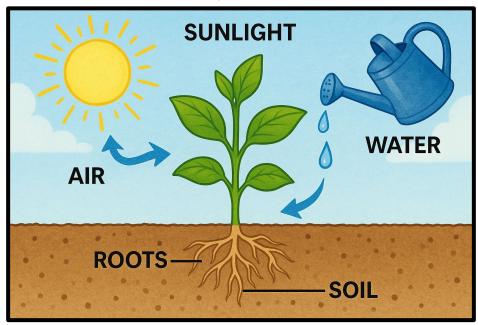
Read the short story and answer each question.



What Do Plants Need?

Plants are living things. They grow in the ground.

Plants need four things to grow: soil, water, sunlight, and air.

Soil gives the plant a place to stand and holds its roots. Water helps the plant grow strong.

Sunlight gives the plant energy to make food. Air gives the plant what it needs to stay alive.

If a plant does not get one of these things, it will not grow well.

What Do Plants Need?

- 1. What do plants need to grow?
- A. Food, candy, and shoes
- B. Soil, water, sunlight, and air
- C. Toys and tools
- D. Snow and raincoats

- 2. What does sunlight help a plant do?
- A. Sleep
- B. Make food
- C. Wash its leaves
- D. Catch bugs

3. Fill in the blan

A plant's _____ help it stay in the soil.

4. What is the connection between sunlight and a plant's food?

5. What would happen if a plant didn't get water? Use the text to explain your thinking.

Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: E Lexile Level: 10L-160L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational Text (Life Science)

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read a nonfiction science passage about what plants need to grow. As we read, we'll focus on how ideas are connected—like how sunlight helps a plant, or what happens if a plant doesn't get water. We'll practice looking for connections in the text."

Vocabulary: soil, roots, sunlight, energy, grow

Before Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What do you think plants need to grow?
- 2. Have you ever helped care for a plant?
- 3. Why do you think plants need more than just water?

During Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What does the plant get from the soil?
- How does air help a plant?
- 3. What are two things that work together to help a plant grow?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What is the connection between water and strong plants?
- How do soil and roots work together?
- 3. What would happen if a plant didn't get one of the things it needs?

Activity Idea

Give students a "Plant Needs" picture organizer with icons for soil, water, sunlight, and air. They draw a line from each need to a matching plant part (e.g., water → stem). Then, they write or say one sentence about how each item helps the plant, using the passage for support.

