

FLOWERING PLANTS

The largest group of plants are flowering plants. They include trees as well as flowers. Their main parts are the flowers, leaves, stem and roots.

Many flowers have bright colours and a strong smell. They attract insects to the sweet liquid called nectar inside.

Leaves have a chemical inside which helps to make food.

The stem supports the plant. Water and food travel from the roots, through the stem and then to all the other parts of the plant.

Roots hold a plant upright and take in water and minerals.

Making food

Green plants use the sun's energy to make food in their leaves. They turn water and minerals from the soil and carbon dioxide gas from the air into sugar. Sugar is food for plants. This process is called photosynthesis.

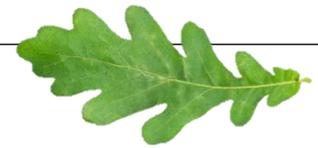
Trees

A tree is a plant with a thick woody stem called a trunk.

A tree grows from its middle out. One ring of new wood builds up each year making the trunk thicker.



Looking at leaves



Leaves contain a green chemical which absorbs sunlight to help make food. When leaves die, the green chemical fades away and they change colour.

Many types of trees lose all of their leaves every autumn. They are called deciduous trees. Trees that don't lose all their leaves at once are called evergreens.

Inside a flower

Flowers contain parts that can make seeds which will grow into new plants.

To make the seeds, a yellow dust, called pollen, has to be carried from one flower to another. The wind and small animals do this job.



Pollen sticks to a bee's body as it drinks nectar. This will rub off on the next flower it visits.

Fruits

When the petals fall off, flowers grow into fruits.

Fruits contain seeds that can grow into new plants.

Not all fruits are edible, for example an acorn is the fruit of an oak tree.



Stems

Stems hold the leaves above the ground and transport water and food to the other parts of the plant.

There are lots of different types of stems, for example strawberry plant stems grow along the ground and ivy plant stems grow along other plants.



Sunlight

If you look down on a plant from above you can see that its leaves are arranged so that as much sunlight falls upon each one as possible. The greater the amount of sunlight each leaf receives, the more sugar the plant can make.

Roots

Hidden underground, a network of roots spreads through the soil. The roots hold the plant firmly in the ground. Water and dissolved minerals enter the roots through the tiny root tips. The more roots a plant has, the more water and minerals it can take up.



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