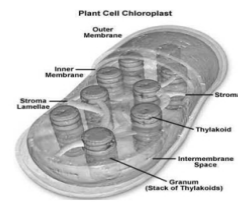


Photosynthesis Worksheet Name _____ Period ____

Chloroplasts

Photosynthesis is a process in which sunlight energy is used to make glucose. The site of photosynthesis is in the chloroplast - an organelle found in the leaves of green plants. The main functions of chloroplasts are to produce food (glucose) during photosynthesis, and to store food energy. Chloroplasts contain the pigment, chlorophyll. Chlorophyll absorbs most of the colors in the color spectrum, and reflects only green and yellow wavelengths of light. This is why we see leaves as green or yellow - because these colors are reflected into our eyes.



Photosynthesis

Glucose is another name for sugar. The molecular formula for glucose is $C_6H_{12}O_6$. Plants make sugar by using the energy from sunlight to transform CO_2 from the air with water from the ground into glucose. This process, called photosynthesis, occurs in the chloroplast of the plant cell. During this process, oxygen (O_2) is created as a waste product and is released into the air for us to breath. The formula for photosynthesis is:



This formula says that carbon dioxide and water molecules are combined with the energy from sunlight to produce sugar and oxygen. The reactants in photosynthesis (what is used) are CO_2 , water and sun. The plant gets water from the ground through its roots. The plant collects carbon dioxide from the air. Much of the carbon dioxide comes from living organisms that exhale it, but some also comes from factory smokestacks and car fumes.

The products (what is made) are glucose and oxygen. The glucose produced is used by the plant for energy and growth. We also use this glucose by eating plants. The oxygen produced is released into the air for us to breath. Photosynthesis is essential for all life on earth, because it provides food and oxygen.