Breathe in. Breathe out. Now thank a plant. Seriously! The deep breath that you just inhaled contained oxygen. Your body needs oxygen to survive. Oxygen travels to all parts of your body through your bloodstream. Where does that oxygen come from? It comes from plants. Plants use a process known as photosynthesis to produce oxygen for our planet. Photosynthesis doesn't just create oxygen for us; it creates food for the plant as well.

Photosynthesis is a process. It happens in several steps. First, plants must take in water through their roots. The water travels up the xylem tissues in the plant. Next, the plants absorb carbon dioxide from the air. This happens through small openings in the leaves called stomata. The plants also absorb energy from the sun. When all these factors are combined, a chemical reaction takes place. The plant creates glucose and releases oxygen. The glucose is food for the plant. The oxygen is needed by people and animals.

Plants provide oxygen for people. We depend on them and the process of photosynthesis. Believe it or not, they depend on us, too. After breathing in that oxygen-rich air, we exhale carbon dioxide - the same carbon dioxide that plants need to make their food. Maybe plants should thank us as well!

Thank a Plant

Questions

1. The process of photosynthesis produces two things. What are they?

2. Which of these is a fact from the story?
   A. You should thank a plant.
   B. Maybe plants should thank us as well!
   C. Carbon dioxide enters the plant through stomata.
   D. Plants make the world a better place.

3. The reader can infer from reading this story that ______.
   A. all plants are beautiful
   B. plants are more important than people
   C. most plants are big
   D. people could not survive without plants
4. Choose the best title:
   A. Take a Deep Breath
   B. Glucose Is Good For You
   C. Make Like a Plant and Leaf
   D. Photosynthesis: Food for the Plant, Oxygen for the Planet