

→ Read the chapter three times and find the toughest words.



1

Green Plants – The Food Producers



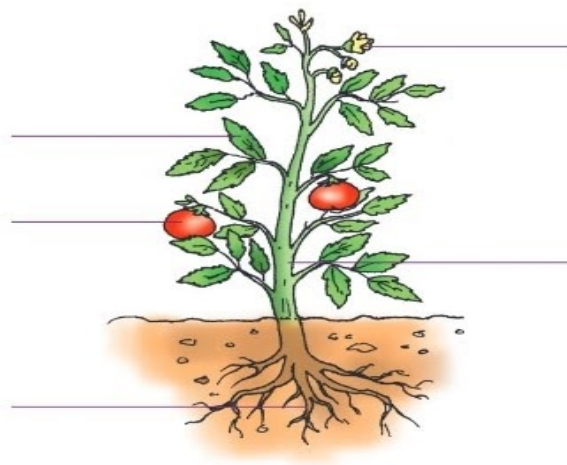
We know that all living things need food for growth and repair of their body parts. But not all of them can produce food. Animals and human beings lack this ability. Green plants are the only living things that can produce food. They are able to do so because of the presence of a substance called chlorophyll in their leaves. Chlorophyll is green in colour and is also responsible for imparting green colour to the leaves.

In this chapter, we will discuss how a leaf prepares food in the presence of chlorophyll.



Quick Recall

Identify the parts of the plant and discuss their main functions.





Structure and Function of a Leaf

We have already studied about the structure of a leaf. Let's review it quickly.



Bingo's Activity Time

Take any green leaf. Observe it carefully and answer the following questions.

- Does it have a flat part called the leaf blade?
- Does it have a main vein and several side veins?
- Is the whole leaf green in colour?



Now observe a few different leaves and again answer these questions. Did you find any similarity between the leaves you observed?



Request your teacher to show you the underside of a leaf under a microscope. You will see that there are many tiny openings called **stomata** (singular stoma) on it. Plants breathe through these stomata.



Bingo's Knowledge Bank

The main vein called the midrib, and the side veins transport water from the stem to all parts of the leaf.

A green leaf performs the following tasks for the plant.

- It prepares food for the plant in the presence of chlorophyll using sunlight, water and carbon dioxide. That's why it is called the **food factory** of a plant.
- It helps the plant to breathe through stomata.
- Some leaves also store food prepared by the plant.



Bingo's Teaser

Name four leaves that contain stored food which you eat.



cabbage



spinach



fenugreek



Apart from food, oxygen is also given out by plants during photosynthesis through stomata. This gas is then used by animals and human beings for breathing. They, in turn, give out carbon dioxide in the air.



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