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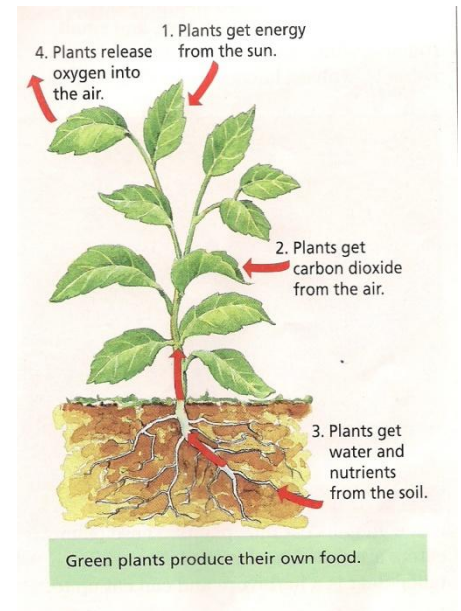
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How do we get energy?

As we have discussed, a habitat needs to include everything that a plant or animal needs in order to survive. Just like you do, all plants and animals need energy to survive. However, the way we get this energy varies. Humans, like all animals, get energy from the food they eat when they are hungry. Plants, however, do not get hungry, and they do not eat other living things.

How Do Plants Get Energy?

Plants are very different from animals. They are called **producers** because they produce their own food. Green plants use the energy from the sun to turn water and carbon dioxide into the food they need. They do this using a material called **chlorophyll** found in their leaves to capture the sun's energy and turn these components into sugar. This sugar is then used by the plant for growth, repair and reproduction. The process that makes these sugars is called **photosynthesis**.



How Do Animals Get Energy?

Animals are called **consumers** because they must consume or eat other living things to get the energy they need to survive. All animals are consumers, but there are three different types of consumers.

Some animals eat only other animals. They are meat eaters and are called **carnivores**. The great blue heron is a carnivore. It eats fish, frogs, salamanders, and small rodents. Other animals that are carnivores are weasels, wolves, hawks, owls, and lions.

Some animals eat only plants. These plant eaters are called **herbivores**. The white-tailed deer is a herbivore and can eat up to 5 kg of plant material a day. The white-tailed deer eats a combination of twigs, leaves, grasses, shrubs and saplings. Other animals that are herbivores are moose, hares, hummingbirds, beavers and Canada geese.

Some animals eat both plants and other animals. These animals are called **omnivores**. The racoon is an omnivore and will eat almost anything from fish and frogs to fruit and vegetables. Black bears, squirrels and pigs are also omnivores.

1. Make a list of producers.

Grass		
Oak Tree		
Rose		
...etc		

2. Make a list of carnivores

Lion		
Hawk		
Spider		
...etc		

3. Make a list of herbivores.

Rabbit		
Grasshopper		
Deer		
...etc		

4. Make a list of omnivores.

Bears		
Mice		
Ravens		
...etc		

5. What type of consumer are you?

Omnivore - most humans eat plants and animals. Some humans are herbivores (vegetarians).

Very few (if any) humans are carnivores - bread contains plant material, as does chocolate.

