

What a Plant Needs



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

A plant is alive, so it needs some things to grow, just as you do. All plants need seven things: room to grow, the right temperature, light, water, air, nutrients and time.

Plants need light. A plant that does not get enough light grows thin stems and leans toward the light.

Plants need water, but not too much. With no water, or with too much, a plant dies. Push your finger one inch into the soil. If it feels dry, give the plant water.

Plants use the air, too. They take in carbon dioxide and give back oxygen.

Most of the nutrients a plant needs are mixed into water, and the roots take them up. Roots need room to grow. When they are crowded in a small pot, the plant grows less.

Most plants like the temperatures that people like. And every plant needs time to grow.

1. What are the seven things all plants need to grow?

2. How does a plant show that it needs more light?

3. How can you tell when a plant needs water?

4. Look at a plant at home or at school. Which of the seven things can you see it getting?

Answer key

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1. What are the seven things all plants need to grow?
Room to grow, the right temperature, light, water, air, nutrients and time.
2. How does a plant show that it needs more light?
It grows thin stems and leans toward the light.
3. How can you tell when a plant needs water?
Push your finger one inch into the soil. If it feels dry, the plant needs water.
4. Look at a plant at home or at school. Which of the seven things can you see it getting?
Sample answer: light from a window, water in its soil, and room to grow in a big pot.