

Name _____

Exploring Autotrophs: Nature's Self-Sustainers

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Autotrophs obtain energy to produce their own food through processes such as photosynthesis or chemosynthesis, where they harness energy from sunlight or certain chemicals.
2. Humans rely on autotrophs for survival by consuming plants and plant-based products for food and oxygen for respiration.
3. Photosynthesis is important for autotrophs because it allows them to convert energy from sunlight into chemical energy in the form of glucose, which serves as their primary source of energy.
4. Autotrophs sustain life on Earth by providing energy for the food chain, releasing oxygen, and maintaining the balance of gases in the atmosphere.

