

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Sunlight SOS: What Happens to Plants When They Don't Get Enough Sun?

### Short Answer Key

1. Photosynthesis is the process by which plants convert sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water into glucose (sugar) and oxygen. It's essential for plant survival because it provides the energy and food they need to grow and thrive.
2. A lack of sunlight can lead to leggy growth in plants because they stretch taller and thinner as they reach for the light, trying to maximize their exposure to it.
3. Plants adapt to low-light conditions by exhibiting phototropism (bending toward light sources) or developing larger leaves to capture more available light. These adaptations help them make the most of the limited sunlight.
4. To provide indoor plants with sufficient sunlight when natural sunlight is limited, you can use artificial grow lights or place them near windows with good sunlight exposure. Rotating the plants to ensure even light distribution is also helpful.
5. Photosynthesis is crucial in the broader ecosystem as it serves as the foundation of food chains. Plants provide food for herbivores, which, in turn, support carnivores and omnivores. This process sustains life on Earth.

