

# **JESSICA LEARNS ABOUT PHOTOSYNTHESIS**

Six year old Jessica loved spending time with her dad in the garden. Her dad was digging a hole for a new plant they had just bought.



"Do you know that plants make their own food?" asked Dad.

Jessica scrunched up her face. She was picturing a plant cooking at a stove in her head.

"That can't be true," she replied. "They can't cook."

"They don't have to cook," laughed Dad. "They use something called photosynthesis to make the food they need."

"Photo what?" asked Jessica.

"Photosynthesis," answered Dad. "Photo means light. Plants use sunlight to make food."

Jessica folded her arms and looked suspiciously at her dad. Was he playing a joke on her?

"Ok," said Dad. "You know that plants use their roots to drink water."

Jessica nodded her head yes.

"Did you also know that they use their leaves to absorb or take in sunlight?"

Jessica shook her head no.

"Leaves have something called chlorophyll," explained Dad. "Chlorophyll makes leaves green. It also lets the plant take in sunlight."

Dad picked up the new plant.

"Look at the leaves," he said. "Do you see lots of small holes?"

"I do," responded Jessica.

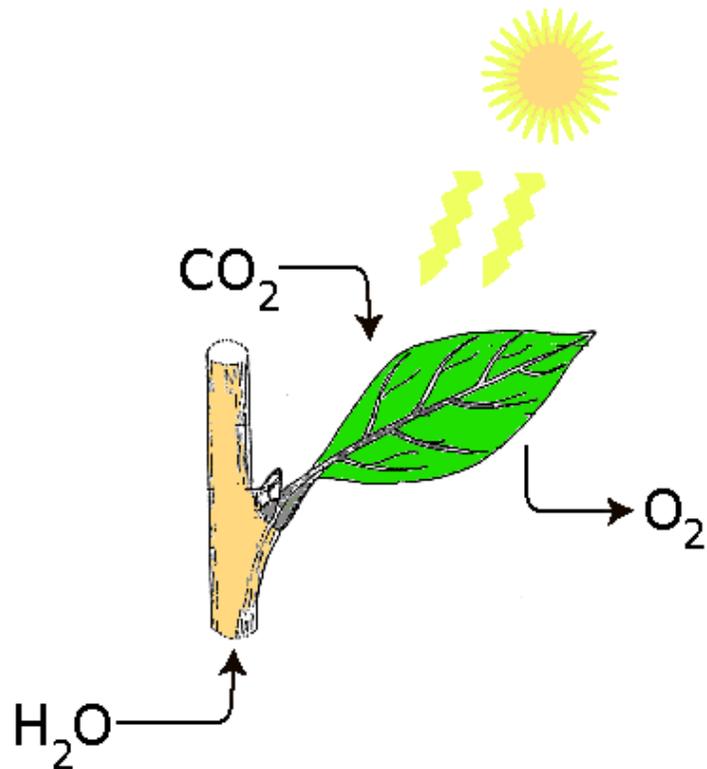
"These holes are called pores," he said. "They are also called stoma or stomata. These pores or stoma take in air. The plant uses air, sunlight and water to create a food called glucose. This is called photosynthesis."

Jessica was amazed. She picked up the new plant.

"Wow!" she exclaimed. "You can actually make your own food."

Dad smiled and continued to dig.

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## ***QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STORY***

What did Jessica picture in her head when her dad told her that plants make their own food?

Why did Jessica think her dad was joking?

How do plants consume water?

What do plants need to make food?

What makes leaves green?

What are other names for the pores in leaves?

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