PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Plants need three basic things to live: water, sunlight, and carbon dioxide. When plants breathe carbon dioxide in, they breathe out oxygen. Plants are a major source of oxygen and help keep us alive. Plants use sunlight as energy, get water through their roots, and obtain carbon dioxide through their leaves. The process of taking these three ingredients and making them into food is called photosynthesis.

NANCY B. SAYS TO TRY THIS!

Watch how a leaf creates oxygen from sunlight!

THINGS TO DO

1. With an adult's help, get a green leaf from a plant. Fill the glass or jar with water and place the leaf in the water.
2. Put the glass with the leaf in a sunny place. What do you think will happen?
3. After an hour, carefully look at the leaf and side of the glass. You should be able to see lots of tiny bubbles—the oxygen released from the leaf through photosynthesis. Use your magnifying glass to get a closer look. Draw what you observed in the box.

SUPPLIES REQUIRED:
- Clear glass or jar
- Broad green leaf
- Magnifying glass (optional)

FUN FACT

Usually, plants are the ones being eaten, but some plants actually eat meat. Plants like pitcher plants are carnivorous. The inside of the pitcher plant is covered with a slippery, sweet nectar. When insects try to take a drink, they slip and fall in, and the pitcher plant eats them up. Some pitcher plants are so large they can even eat small lizards and frogs. Don’t worry! They can’t eat people.