

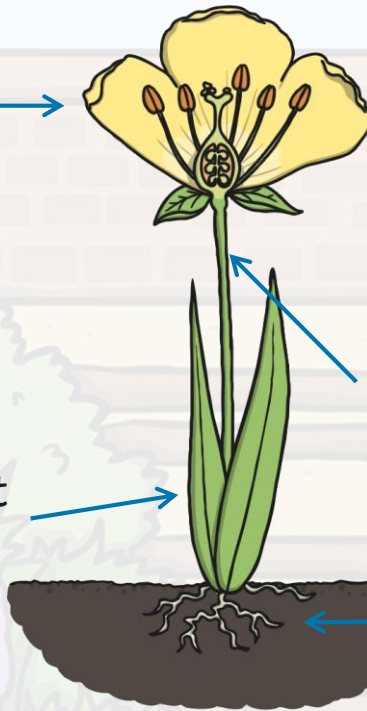


# What Does a Plant Need?

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# Parts of a Plant

**petal** – attracts insects →



**leaves** – turns sunlight into food for the plant →

**stem** – carries water around the plant and holds the plant up

**roots** – suck up water and nutrients from the soil

# Is It Healthy?



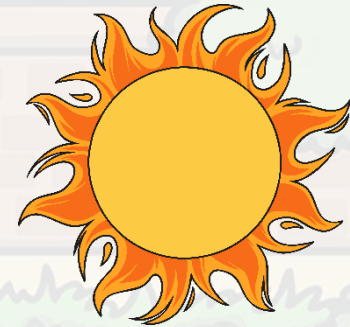
Look at the picture of this plant.

Does it look healthy?

Why do you think that?

# Is It Healthy?

Just like us, plants need certain things in order to grow and be healthy. Can you work out what these things are?



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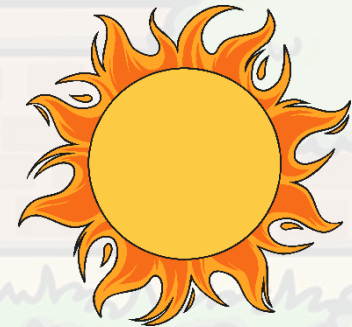


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# Is It Healthy?

Just like us, plants need certain things in order to grow and be healthy. Can you work out what these things are?



water

the right

light

temperature

# Water

## Plants need water for many reasons...

- When you first plant a seed, water is needed to help turn the seed into the start of a plant.
- Plants need water to suck up nutrients from the soil. Nutrients are the good things in soil which will help a plant grow and be healthy.
- The leaves of a plant need water to help it turn sunlight in to food.

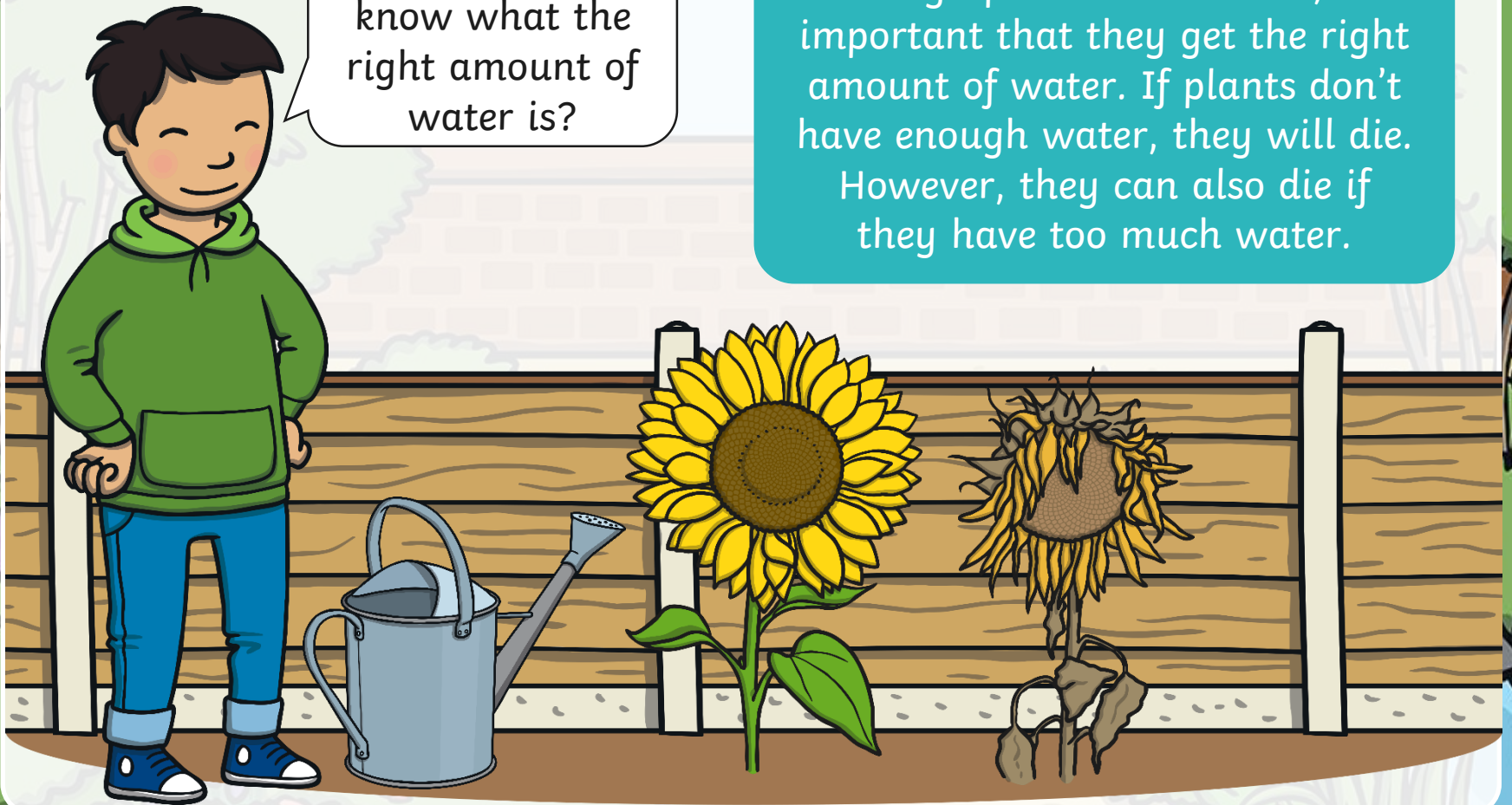
Children should try to drink around five glasses of water a day. Plants need water to grow and be healthy too!



# How Much Water?

How do we know what the right amount of water is?

Although plants need water, it is important that they get the right amount of water. If plants don't have enough water, they will die. However, they can also die if they have too much water.



# How Much Water?

To know how much is the right amount of water, we need to know what type of plant it is. For example, lavender and sage need very little water. Whereas, irises and hydrangeas need lots of water.

When you buy a packet of seeds, the packet will often give you information about how much water a plant needs. If you aren't sure, you could find out using a book or the Internet.



lavender



sage



iris



hydrangea

# Light

We need sunlight to keep healthy. Our bodies make vitamin D from sunlight. Vitamin D helps our bodies use something called calcium which makes our bones strong. Plants need light to keep them strong too!



Leaves turn sunlight in to food for the whole plant. Without light, a plant won't be healthy.



# Light

If you put a plant in a very dark place, such as a cupboard, you will notice some interesting things...

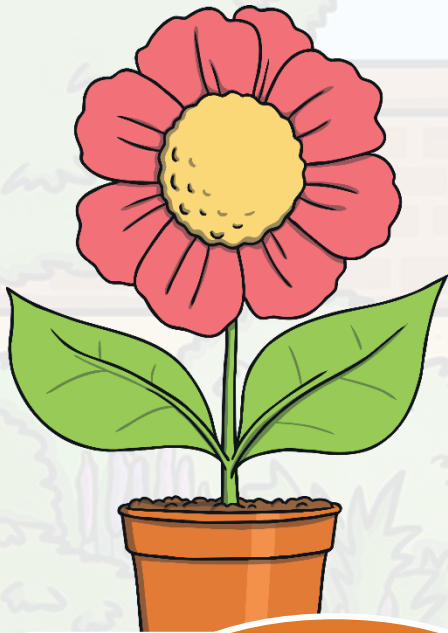
As the plant grows, it will grow in the direction of the cupboard door, trying to find some sunlight.

At first, the plant might grow taller, but it will be thinner than usual. This is because the plant is putting all its energy in to finding light.



# Light

Can you work out which plant was grown in the light and which plant was grown in the dark?



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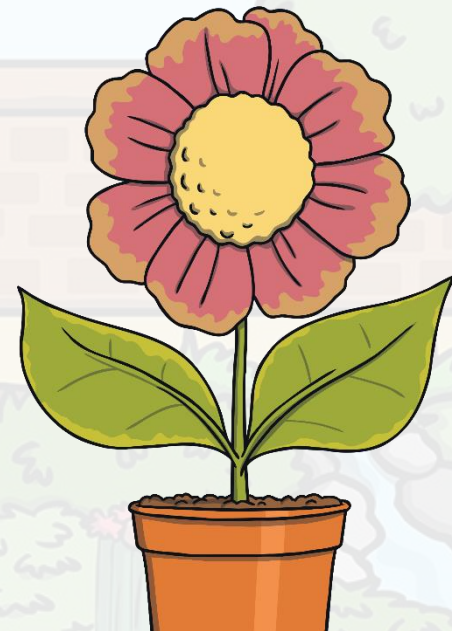
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# Light

Can you work out which plant was grown in the light and which plant was grown in the dark?



This plant was grown in the light.

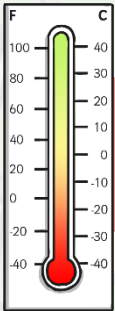


This plant was grown in the dark.

# Temperature

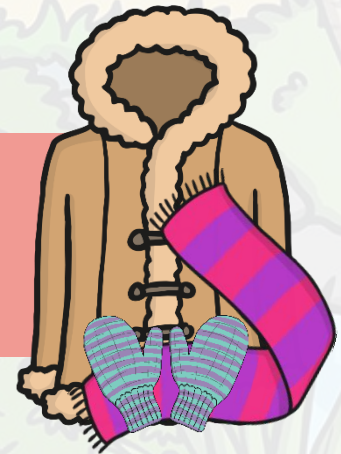
What do you think the word **temperature** means?

**temperature** – how hot or cold something is



When you've been poorly, the people you live with might have used a thermometer to check your temperature.

If the temperature outside is high (hot), you wouldn't go out wearing a coat, hat and gloves. You'd get very hot and sweaty and might begin to feel unwell.



# The Right Temperature

Plants need the right temperature to stay healthy too!  
The right temperature is different for different types of plants.



A **cactus** is from the desert, so it is used to a hot temperature.



**Daisies** can grow and be healthy in much cooler temperatures.

Seeds need the right temperature to start turning in to a plant. Plants also need the right temperature to be able to turn sunlight into food.

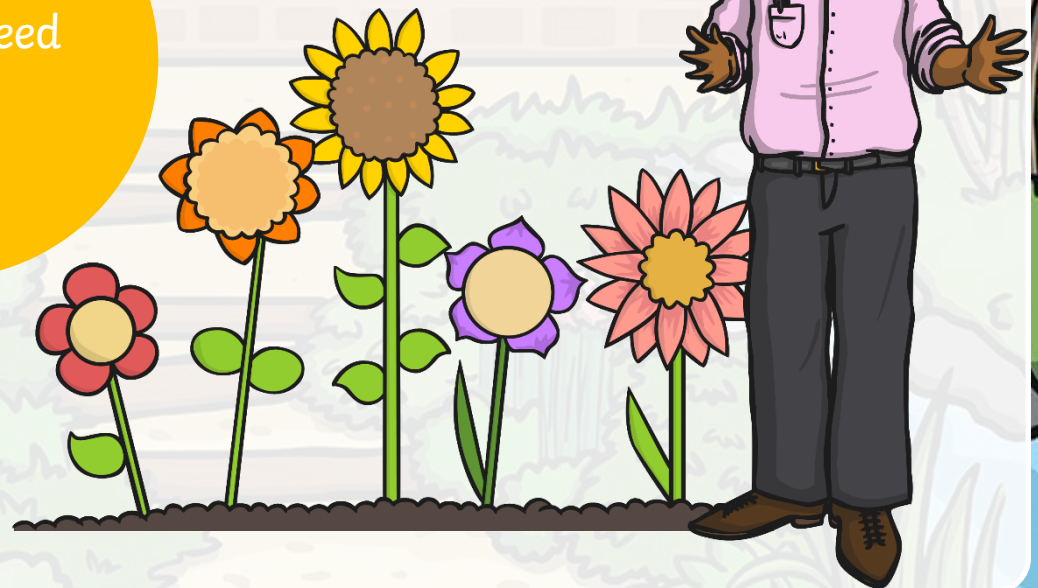
# Can You Remember?

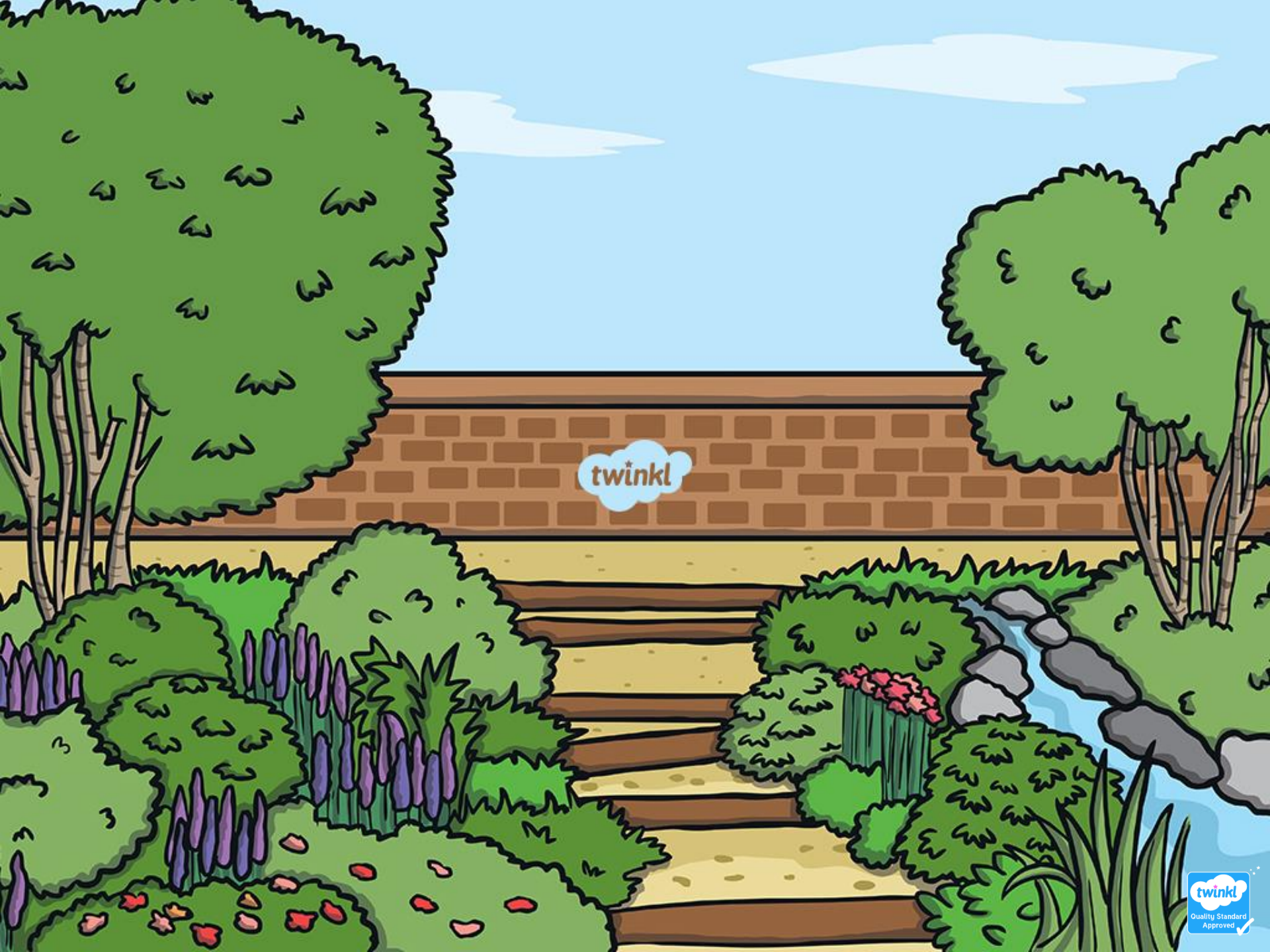
Plants need water, but not too much.

Plants need light.

Plants need the right temperature.

Can you remember everything a plant needs to grow and be healthy?





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