

WHAT DO PLANTS NEED TO SURVIVE?



by Emily Rajj



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Words in **bold** are in the glossary.

A PLANT INVESTIGATION

Drooping leaves. Brown edges.
Dry soil. Your plant is not looking good.
But it looked great when you brought
it home. Its leaves were green. The
soil was moist. What happened?

Not everyone has a green thumb.
People say you have a green thumb if
you are good at growing things. But
plants need more than that to live.
They need water, sunlight, and air.
Shelter and enough space help plants
grow too. Are you ready to work on
that green thumb?



Let's do an investigation to see for ourselves what plants need. Plant bean sprouts in six paper or plastic cups.

One is the **control** plant. It gets everything it needs. Place this plant on the windowsill. Water it every two days.





The control plant is getting sun, water, and good soil with **fertilizer**, or plant food. It has enough air. The room stays at a steady temperature. It doesn't get too hot or too cold.

The other plants are test plants. You will change the way you care for each plant. You will take away one of the things each plant needs.

Place a paper bag over one plant. Still give the plant water and good soil.

Place another plant in a freezer. This plant still gets good soil and water.

Put the third plant on a windowsill. Give it good soil but no water.

