



SCIENCE SUMMARY – GRADE 3

Living Things & Plants



1. What is a living thing?

Living things **grow, eat, breathe and respond to their environment.**

They have **3 vital functions**:



NUTRITION → They get food and energy. 👁️ **INTERACTION** → They sense and respond to the world. 🧒 **REPRODUCTION** → They have babies.



Types of living things

There are many different living things:



ANIMALS

- Animals **eat other living things.**
- Examples: 🦒 giraffe, 🦜 toucan, 🐒 chimpanzee.



PLANTS

- Plants **make their own food.**
- Examples: 🌳 trees, 🌿 grass, 🌺 flowers.



OTHER LIVING THINGS

- 🍄 **Fungi** get food from the remains of dead organisms.
- 🌊 **Algae** make their own food and live in water.
- 🦠 **Bacteria and protozoa** are microscopic living things.

2. What does a plant look like?

A plant has **3 basic parts**:

LEAVES

 They **make food** for the plant.  They also **breathe**.

STEM

↕ It **supports the plant**.  It **transports water and other substances** from the roots to the rest of the plant.

ROOTS

 They **anchor the plant** in the ground.  They **absorb water and other substances** from the soil.

EASY TO REMEMBER!

ROOTS →  Absorb water STEM →  Transports water LEAVES →  Make food

Living things:

NUTRITION  + INTERACTION  + REPRODUCTION 

PLANTS – EASY SUMMARY

NUTRITION

Plants need **water, minerals, sunlight and carbon dioxide**.

 **Roots** → take in **water and minerals** from the soil.  **Stem** → carries water and minerals to the leaves.  **Leaves** → use **sunlight + water + carbon dioxide** to make food.

 This process is called **photosynthesis**.

 Plants also release **oxygen** into the air.

2 REPRODUCTION

Some plants use **flowers** to reproduce.

 **1. Pollination** → insects, birds or wind carry **pollen** from one flower to another.

 **2. Fruit and seeds** → the flower becomes a **fruit with seeds**.

 **3. New plant** → the seeds can grow into a **new plant**.

FLOWER → FRUIT + SEEDS → NEW PLANT

3 INTERACTION

Plants **interact with their environment**.

They react to:

 **Sunlight** → Sunflowers turn towards the sun.

 **Touch** → The mimosa plant closes its leaves when we touch it.

 **Water** → Roots grow towards water.

 Plants interact with their environment to **get what they need to survive**.



CLASSIFYING PLANTS

We can classify plants by their **characteristics**.



GRASSES

- Soft, thin and flexible stems.
- Example: **dandelion**.



BUSHES

- Many thin, hard stems.
- Example: **rose**.



TREES

- One thick, hard stem called a **trunk**.
- Example: **oak tree**.



SEED PLANTS AND SEEDLESS PLANTS



SEED PLANTS

They **produce seeds**.

Examples:

-  Flowering plants
-  Pine trees



SEEDLESS PLANTS

They **do not produce seeds, flowers or fruits**.

Examples:

- 🌿 Ferns
- ● Mosses

★ REMEMBER!

🌱 Plants make their own food. ☀️ They need sunlight. 💧 Roots absorb water and minerals. 🌬️ Plants release oxygen. 🌸 Some plants reproduce with seeds. 🌻 Plants react to sunlight, touch and water. 🌿 Plants can be classified into different groups.