Caring for Plants

A. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: roots stem photosynthesis overwatering nutrients

1. Plants use their _____ to absorb water from the soil.

2. The process plants use to make their own food using sunlight is called _____.

3. Giving a plant too much water is called _____ and it can harm the roots.

4. The _____ holds the plant up straight and transports water to the leaves.

5. Good soil is full of _____, which are like vitamins for the plant.

B. Match the Following;

Column A (Insect)	Column B (Description)
1. Roots	A. Provides the energy for the plant to make food.
2. Stem	B. Soaks up water and nutrients from the soil.
3. Leaves	C. All living things need this to survive; it helps move nutrients.
4. Sunlight	D. Holds the plant up and carries water to the leaves.
5. Water	E. Uses sunlight, air, and water to make food for the plant.

C. Practice Problems

1. Why is it important for a plant's pot to have holes at the bottom?

2. What could happen to a plant if it is kept in a dark closet for two weeks?

3. Name two different ways a plant can get water.

4. Which part of the plant acts like a straw, carrying water from the roots to the leaves?

5. If a plant's leaves are turning yellow, what are two possible reasons?

D. Warm-up Questions

1. What is one thing all plants need to get from the sun?

2. Which part of the plant is usually under the ground and soaks up water?

3. If a plant's leaves are very dry and droopy, what does it most likely need?

4. Besides water and sunlight, what do plants get from the soil to help them grow?

5. What gas do plants take in from the air to help them make food?

E. Challenge Questions

1. You have two identical plants. You put Plant A on a sunny windowsill. You put Plant B in a bathroom with no windows, but you turn the light on for 8 hours a day. Which plant do you think will grow better and why?

2. A cactus is a plant that lives in the hot, dry desert. How is caring for a cactus different from caring for a fern that lives in a shady, wet forest?

3. Imagine you have a bean seed. Describe the three most important things you would need to provide to make it sprout and grow into a plant.

4. Some people say that talking to your plants helps them grow. While the sound of a voice doesn't help, what are you breathing out that a plant could actually use?

5. If you plant a seed upside down, what will the roots and the stem do? Why?

F. Word Problems & Application

1. Leo's Lily: Leo loves his new peace lily. He waters it with a full cup of water every single morning. After a week, he notices the leaves are turning yellow and the soil is always muddy. What is the problem and what advice would you give Leo?

2. Maria's Vacation: Maria is going on vacation for two weeks. She has a tomato plant on her sunny porch. What could she do to make sure her plant gets water while she is gone?

3. The Classroom Experiment: A teacher puts one plant by the window and another identical plant in a cabinet. She waters them both equally. After two weeks, the plant from the cabinet is pale and weak. What is the one main thing (the variable) that caused this difference?

4. Sam's Seeds: Sam plants a sunflower seed in a pot of dry, sandy soil and puts it in the sun. His sister, Amy, plants her sunflower seed in a pot of dark, rich soil and also puts it in the sun. They both water their seeds. Whose seed is likely to grow into a healthier plant? Why?

5. Weed in the Crack: You see a small weed growing in a tiny crack in the sidewalk. It gets sunlight and rain. Where is it getting its nutrients from?

G. True or False

1. Plants only need sunlight to live. _____

2. All plants need the exact same amount of water and sun. _____

3. The flowers are the part of the plant that makes the food. _____

4. It is good to water your plants every single day. _____

5. Plants release oxygen, which is a gas that people and animals need to breathe. _____