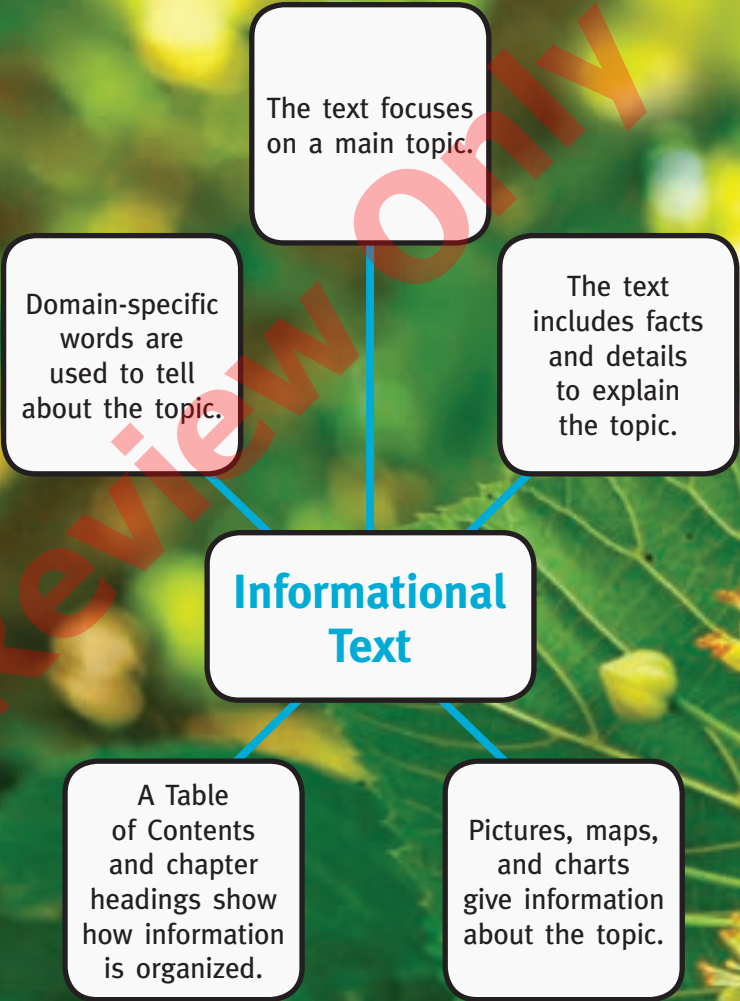


Medicinal Plants



Informational Text

Look for the genre features noted below as you read this book. Use the features to help you understand the text.



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It's Good to Be Green!

Look out the window. Plants are everywhere. The trees, grass, bushes, and flowers are plants. The weeds that poke through the sidewalk are plants, too.



Plants are a special group of living things. They do many important jobs. Plants help support other forms of life. They can also be used to make different things. Some plants can be made into medicine. Read on to learn more about these amazing plants!



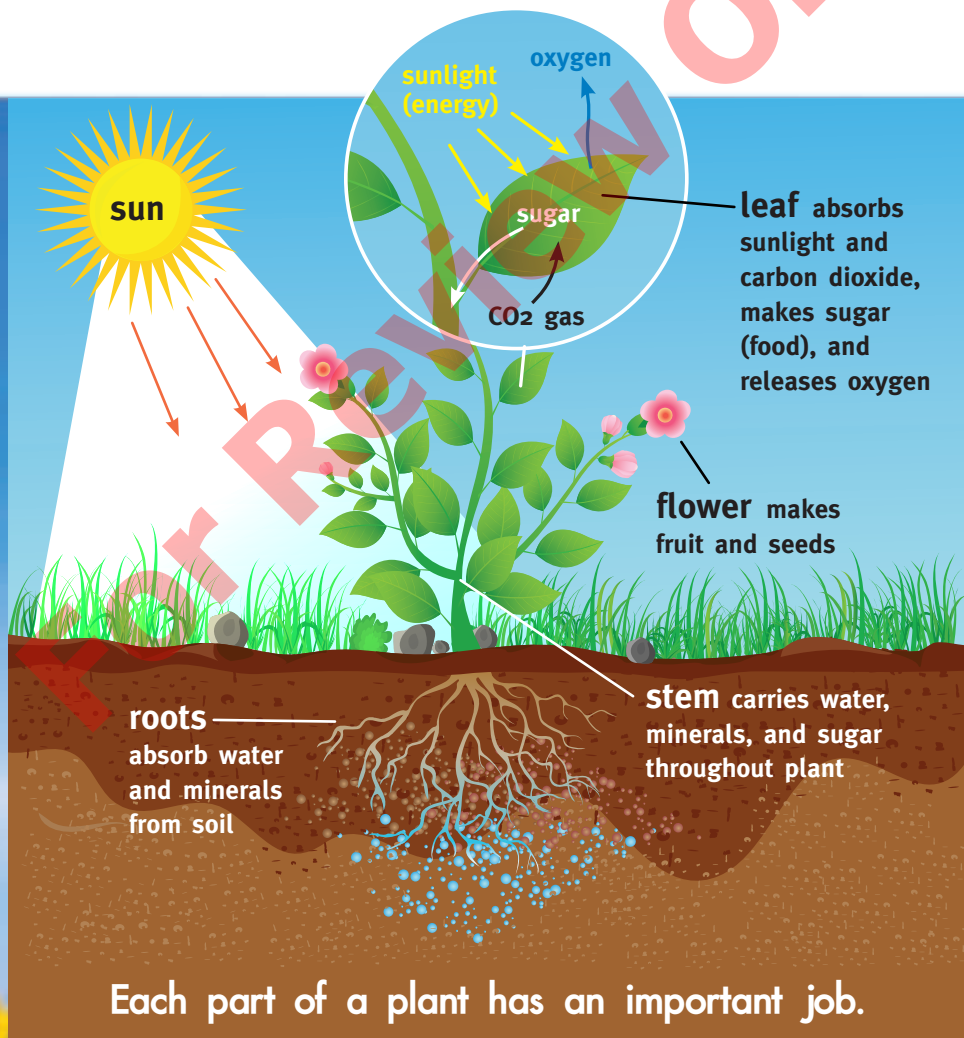
Why Are Plants Special?

Plants are special because they make their own food. They provide energy to other living things in the form of food. They also help clean the air that people, and other animals, breathe.



A plant's leaves **absorb**, or take in, sunlight. They also absorb a gas in the air. The plant's roots absorb water from the soil.

In their leaves, plants mix these ingredients to make a sugar, or food. This sugar helps plants live and grow. The plant leaves also release oxygen into the air.



Plants are also special because there are many types of plants. People can use different plants in different ways.

Some plants are **edible**. That means they are safe to eat. These plants are a healthy source of food for people and other animals. Most of the foods people eat come from plants. Fruits, vegetables, grains, and beans are all foods from plants.

- ▼ People eat fruits and vegetables that grow on plants.





▲ People use plants to decorate and make their surroundings beautiful.

Some plants are not safe to eat. But they are beautiful to look at. People grow many different **ornamental** trees, bushes, and plants for their beauty. People also use flowers like roses, lilies, and orchids to decorate their homes and surroundings.

Some plants have parts that people can use to make products. Many **industrial** plants are trees. For example, people grow pine trees for lumber. They use the wood from tree trunks to build things, like homes and furniture. People grow rubber trees for the sap. The liquid inside these trees is used to make tires and other rubber products.



▲ People use wood from pine trees to build shelter.

▲ People use sap from this plant to make rubber tires.

People use plant parts to make medicines.



◀ The echinacea (eh-kih-NAY-shuh) flower can be used to fight the common cold.

Some plants have parts with healing qualities. These **medicinal** plants are used to make medicines and other remedies.

For example, the first aspirin was made from tree bark. Leaves and flower petals are used to make teas to fight colds. Plant roots and stems are also used to make remedies. Read on to learn more about medicinal plants.