

Photosynthesis Experiments

Perhaps the most valuable way to teach about photosynthesis is for students to complete experiments investigating how it works. You can tell students that photosynthesis requires light, water, and carbon dioxide, but unless they can investigate it for themselves they still just have to take your word for it. Instead of simply believing you, they can find out what happens if you take those resources away.

There are a few ways you can test the different elements needed for photosynthesis:

- Put one plant in bright light, one plant in dim light, and one plant in the dark and see what happens.
- Water one plant heavily, one plant only a little, and another plant not at all.
- Put one plant outside, one plant in an enclosed space, and another plant inside a plastic bag with most of the air forced out.

By changing one variable at a time, students can see for themselves how important each of the inputs of photosynthesis really are.