Plants make food: answers and notes

What your child practised: plants make their own food using sunlight, water and air, so they are producers. Animals can't, so they eat: they are consumers (Year 2 science, food chains).

Page 1 · Warm up

Ring the **oak tree**, the **lettuce** and the **grass**. Not the fox (an animal) or the rock (not alive).

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Every plant is a **producer**. Every animal (people, pets, birds, minibeasts) is a **consumer**.

Page 2 · A. What a plant needs

Ring **sunlight** and **rain water**. Not the rock or the cheese.

Page 3 · B. P or C?

wheat **P** · mouse **C** · snail **C**
oak leaf **P** · owl **C** · seedling **P**

Page 3 · C. Fill the gaps

1. **sunlight** 2. **producer** 3. **eat** 4. **consumer**

Page 3 · D. Draw a plant

Look for leaves, the Sun shining on them, and rain or a watering can.

Challenge: No. A rock isn't alive, so it can't make food, however much sun it gets. Only plants are producers. A rock isn't food for anything either.

Watch out for

- **Thinking a rock (or soil, or sand) can be food.** Ask "Is it alive? Was it ever alive?" Food comes from plants and animals.
- **"Plants eat soil."** Many children think this. Plants take in water from the soil, but they make their food themselves, in their leaves, using sunlight.
- **Thinking the Sun, or people, are producers.** The Sun isn't alive: it gives the light. People are animals, so we eat: we're consumers.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Make or eat?** Name a living thing. Your child says "makes food!" for a plant or "eats food!" for an animal.
- **Window plant:** look at a house plant. Which way are its leaves facing? (Usually towards the light.)
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Hungry rabbit, finds out what a hungry rabbit can eat.