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The Desert Plant Question

How do plants grow in the desert?

In this episode we discover the things plants need to grow – air, sunlight, food and water. Desert plants have different ways to find and save water because it hardly rains.

Wonder some more ...

1. What is a desert?
2. Where is the Great Sandy Desert?
3. How do desert plants store water?
4. How do plants use sunlight to make food?
5. Where can plants get water from?
6. Why do plants have roots?



Time to explore...

- **EXPERIMENT:** Investigate 'photosynthesis' through a hands-on STEM experiment by planting seeds and observing conditions that promote plant growth – water, sunlight, food & air. Fill small cardboard pots with planting soil and 2 bean seeds. Place one pot outside in the sunlight and water daily. Place another pot inside, in an unlit area and do not water. Together record, measure and compare plant growth.
- **CONNECT WITH NATURE:** Invite children on a 'photosynthesis scavenger hunt' by finding green plants outdoors. Use a plant species app to help children identify and name each of the green leaves they find. Facilitate sustained, shared conversations about 'chlorophyll' and how plants use it to make their own food from sunlight.



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Read and wonder...

- *'An Amazing Australian Road Trip'* (2021) by Jackie Hosking & Lesley Vamos
- *'Scribbly Gum Secrets'* (2020) by Dannika Patterson & Megan Forward

Link to EYLF Learning Outcomes including 2.4, 4.2, 5.1, 5.4 and 5.5.



Early Education