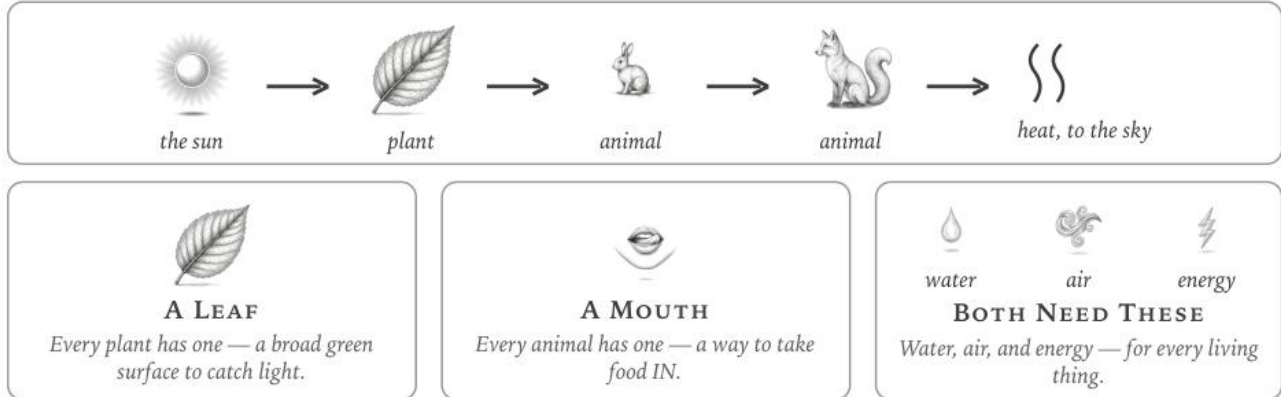




A **plant** catches its energy straight from the **sun**. An **animal** has to **eat**. But follow any animal's dinner back far enough, and it always begins with a plant catching sunlight — so every living thing runs on the sun.



WORDS TO KNOW

plant kingdom — living things that make their own food from light

animal kingdom — living things that must eat

energy — what makes things go — it comes from the sun

photosynthesis — how a leaf turns light, air & water into food

fertilizer — mineral “plant food” — it has no energy of its own

WATCH FOR THIS

- **Find the mouth** on any animal you meet — the cat, a bug, a bird, you. Everything with a mouth has to eat.
- **Find the broad green surface** on any plant — a leaf, a blade of grass, a pine needle. That green is catching sunlight right now.
- **Look under a big tree:** there is no eaten-out pit. The tree never ate the ground — it is built from sunlight and air.



plant

plant

animal

animal

energy

energy



1 • IS IT A PLANT OR AN ANIMAL?

Look at each one. Check the box: is it a *plant* or an *animal*?

☐ plant

☐ animal

☐ plant

☐ animal

☐ plant

☐ animal

☐ plant

☐ animal

☐ plant

☐ animal

☐ plant

☐ animal

2 • CIRCLE THE ONE CLUE

A *plant* always has a leaf. An *animal* always has a mouth. Circle the clue that gives each kingdom away.

EVERY PLANT HAS A...

leaf

mouth

legs

EVERY ANIMAL HAS A...

roots

mouth

flower

3 • WHAT DO BOTH NEED?

Circle the things *every* living thing needs — plants *and* animals.

water

air

a hamburger

sunlight only

a boot

Where Is the Energy?

What burns has the sun's energy inside — what doesn't, doesn't



1 • THE BURN TEST — GUESS FIRST!

Before the grown-up lights each one, circle your guess: will it **burn**, or **not burn**? Food holds the sun's energy and burns. Plain minerals have no energy — they won't.

 potato chip	 it will burn	 it won't
 orange peel	 it will burn	 it won't
 fertilizer	 it will burn	 it won't
 a pebble	 it will burn	 it won't

2 • THE WORM'S LEAF — DRAW WHAT YOU SEE

The worm eats the wilted leaf. Draw the leaf **today**, then again **next week** — watch it shrink!

DAY 1 — TODAY

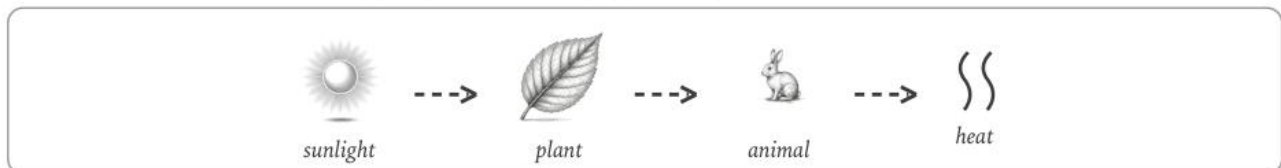
draw the whole leaf

DAY 7 — NEXT WEEK

draw what is left

3 • TRACE THE ENERGY

Start at the sun. Trace the arrows with your pencil — the energy goes one way, and leaves as heat.



Two Kingdoms, One Sun

the lesson's song — sing it, then say what it means



SONG

VERSE 1

Every animal opens a mouth to be fed,
Point to your own mouth, your teeth, and your head!
Every plant has a leaf held up to the light,
Drinking the sun from the morning to night.

CHORUS

A plant catches sunlight, its energy's free,
An animal must eat every day, don't you see,
But trace any dinner back down every trail,
It began with a plant catching sun without fail!

VERSE 2

A cracker will burn 'cause it once was alive,
It's holding the energy that keeps us alive,
But fertilizer's minerals, it won't catch a flame,
Real food carries energy, they're not the same.

CHORUS

A plant catches sunlight, its energy's free,
An animal must eat every day, don't you see,
But trace any dinner back down every trail,
It began with a plant catching sun without fail!

VERSE 3

Is there a hole in the yard where the big tree eats?
No! It sips a little water and it soaks up heat,
It builds its whole body out of air and sun,
A plant makes its food; it never eats, not one!

BRIDGE

Sun to the plant, plant to the deer,
The energy flows and it all starts here!

FINAL CHORUS

A plant catches sunlight, its energy's free,
An animal must eat every day, don't you see,
But trace any dinner back down every trail,
It began with a plant catching sun without fail!

SPOKEN

Plant catches sunlight... animal must eat... trace it
back to the sun!

How to use it. Play the recording once while everyone just listens. Play it again and join in on the chorus only — that is the part carrying the lesson. By the third time most children have the chorus. Then close the binder and ask what the words actually mean; a child who can sing it and explain it has the idea for good.