



Science



Literacy

# HOUSEPLANT HOMES

## Grade Level

2-4

## Length of Lesson

30 minutes

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will have a better understanding about how different plants have different lighting needs for survival.

## Materials

- What are Houseplants? Information Sheet
- Student Worksheet
- Plant Care Cards
- Pencil

## Standards

Common Core ELA-

Literacy:

CC.2-4.R.1.3; 2-3.R.1.5;

2-4.R.1.7; 2-4.W.2

NGSS

2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3

## Lesson Summary

This lesson focuses on houseplants to teach students how different plants require differing amounts of sunlight.

## Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Set Up: Make enough copies of the “What are Houseplants?” information sheet, the student worksheet, and the Plant Care Cards sheet so that each student has their own copy.
2. Read [Love Grows](#) by Ruth Spiro to capture student interest and introduce a variety of popular houseplants.
3. Read through the [IAITC Houseplants Farm Bites](#) to learn more about houseplants!
4. Complete the activity following the procedures:
  - Hand out a copy of the “What are Houseplants?” information sheet to each student and read through it together. When you’re finished reading, have students answer the question at the bottom and share answers.
    - Take some time to talk about the basic needs of plants and how they get those needs outdoors when they have adapted to that environment. When they are inside, they need help from us to give them those basic needs.
  - Hand out the student worksheet and Plant Care Cards.
    - The information on the plant care cards is very generic and can differ from other varieties of the same species of plant.
  - Read through the directions on the student worksheet together.
  - Have students complete the student worksheet using the information on the Plant Care Cards.
5. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity.

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## Extension Ideas

- Show picture of different biomes and ask them how they are similar and different. How might those things affect how plants grow?
- We have many seasons in Illinois. How do we adapt to those changes? Talk more about how plants have had years to adapt to the seasons in their native locations.
- Talk more about plant roots growing in soil and that soils are different all around the world. Soil not only has nutrients that plants take in, it also allows water to absorb or flow through.
- Use the IAITC Soil Sam or Beanie Baby lessons as a scientific inquiry experiment and test different variables so students can see how they affect the growth of plants. Put one in a closet with no light, water one with lemon water or coffee, use compost as the soil instead of potting soil, etc. And make sure to keep a 'control' to make comparisons!
- If you have plants in your classroom, look up the native location of those plants and show them on a map. Show them a picture of that plant growing in the wild.
  - Look at the plant care instructions of that plant. Are the plants getting enough light and water? Have your students help take care of the plants.
- Compare leaf color and shape. Do some plants also have flowers? Compare the color and shape of flowers on houseplants.
- Talk to your students about what it means for a plant to be 'native' to an environment.
- Go to [agintheclassroom.org](http://agintheclassroom.org) to contact your County Ag Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of our Ag Mags.

# WHAT ARE HOUSEPLANTS?



Houseplants are plants that are grown inside. They are grown in pots. People grow plants in their homes, classrooms, restaurants, and offices for many reasons, like:

- 😊 They add a little color to a room
- 😊 Some are good for cleaning the air we breathe
- 😊 They can also make people feel happier

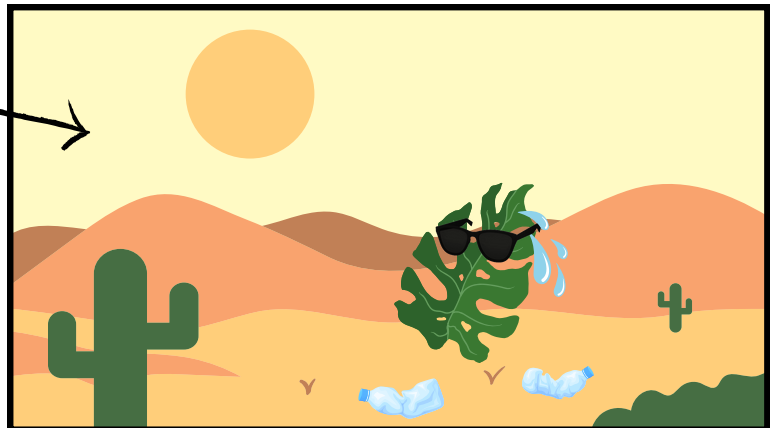
We can grow many cool plants in our homes and classrooms. Many of these plants come from places all around the world. They might not grow well outside in Illinois. Weather here is different from where they usually grow.

A rainforest plant could not live outside in the Illinois winter. It's too cold for them!

When we grow plants inside, we want to make it like the place where they come from. Here are some things we need to think about:

- ✔ amount of sunlight
- ✔ amount of water
- ✔ type of soil

Why can't a rainforest plant live in the desert?





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# HOUSEPLANT HOMES

## STUDENT WORKSHEET

When you buy a houseplant, it will come with directions. These directions tell you what that plant needs to be healthy.

1 Look at the plant care cards to see how much sunlight each plant needs.

2 Then choose the number in the classroom where each plant would survive best.

3 Write the number on the line next to each plant.



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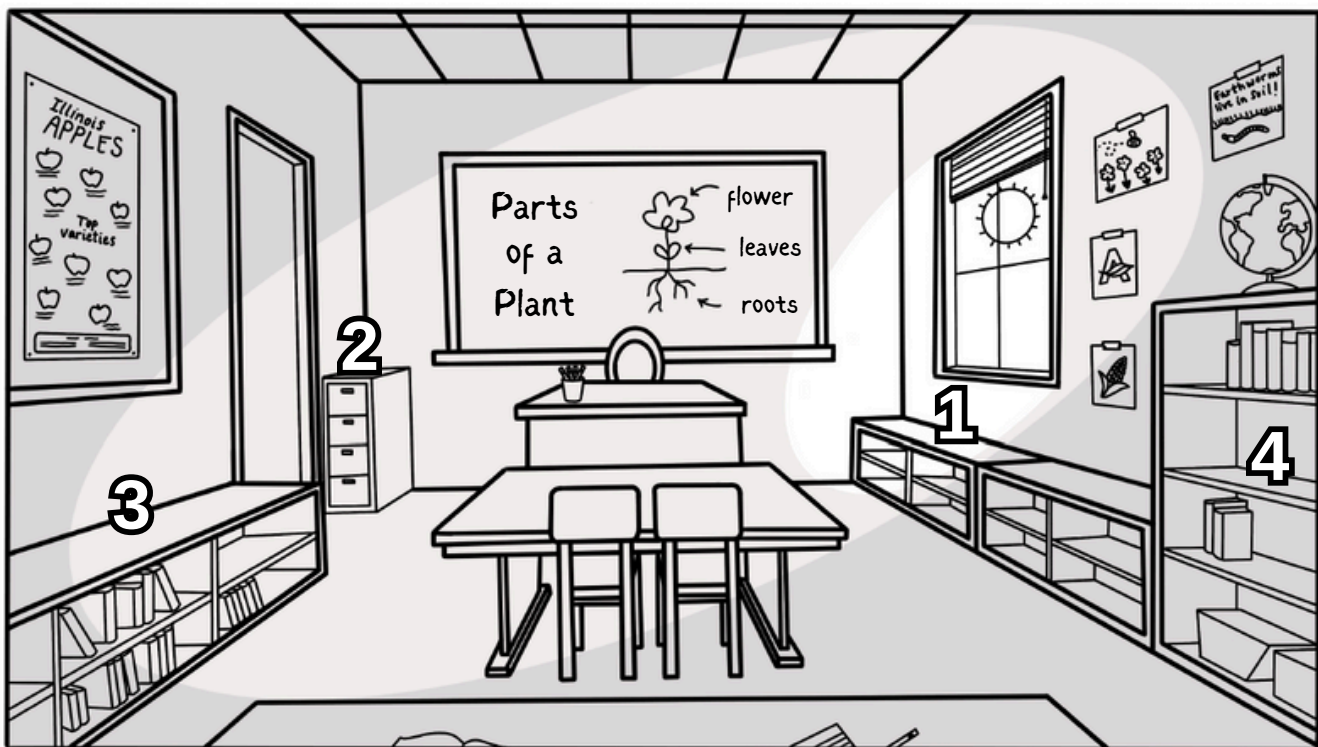
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Choose one of the plants. Why did you choose to place it in that location?

# Plant Care Cards

## ZZ PLANT



Sunlight:



Water:



## SPIDER PLANT



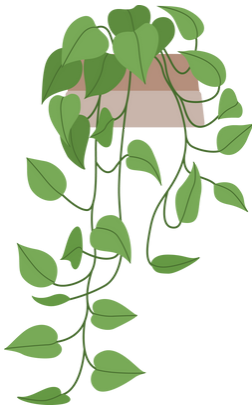
Sunlight:



Water:



## POTHOS



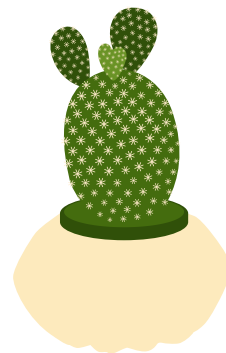
Sunlight:



Water:



## PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS



Sunlight:



Water:

