

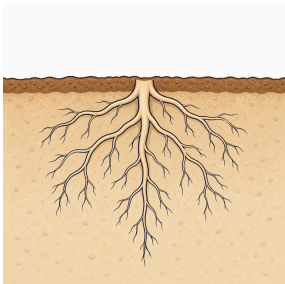


Parts of a flowering plant and their jobs

A flowering plant has four main parts, and each has a different job. Roots, stem, leaves and flowers work together: if one part cannot do its job, the whole plant suffers.

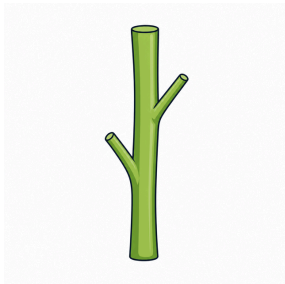
Each part and its job

Roots



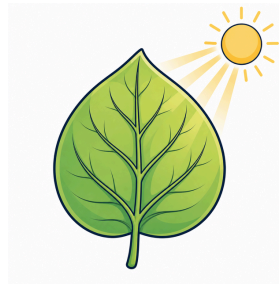
- anchor the plant in the soil
- take in water and minerals

Stem



- holds the plant up to the light
- carries water from roots to leaves

Leaves



- make the plant's food using light
- (extra: with water and carbon dioxide too)

Flowers



- after pollination, seeds can form
- many use colour and scent to attract insects; some are pollinated by the wind

Worked example

A gardener cuts a flower and puts it in a vase of water. Explain why it stays fresh for a few days, and then wilts.

For a few days the cut stem can still take up water from the vase, so the cells stay full of water and the flower stays firm.

Later the cut stem takes up water too slowly, while the flower keeps losing water from its petals and leaves. The cells lose water, go soft, and the flower wilts.

The common mistake

"Plants get their food from the soil through their roots."

Roots take in water and minerals, not food. Plants make their own food in their leaves, using sunlight, water and carbon dioxide from the air. That is why a plant kept in the dark goes pale and weak even in good soil.

Test yourself

- ☐ 1 Which part of the plant makes its food?
- ☐ 2 What do the roots take in from the soil?
- ☐ 3 What are the flowers for?

Next topic

How water travels through a plant

thelearnden.com/year-3/science/transporting-water-in-plants/

Answers: 1. The leaves, using sunlight. 2. Water and minerals. 3. After pollination, seeds can form, so new plants can grow.