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Teacher Directions

This activity can be completed in a 45 minute class period and I use it as a supplement to our photosynthesis lesson. You can discuss compounds, elements, equations, photosynthesis all within this one model.

1. Cut out all pieces.
2. Fold the top leaf along the dotted line so that the leaf can open up from the point (opposite the stem).
3. Glue the top leaf to the bottom leaf, but ONLY GLUE the half of the leaf that is nearest the stem. The other half of the leaf will open up to see the inside of the model.
4. Begin to glue the arrows using the images on the last page of this document as a guide.

I personally like to give the students 15 minutes to cut out everything and then make my own model in front of the class so that everyone is putting the arrows in the right place and so that I can talk about each step of photosynthesis while we’re doing the activity.

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Water (H₂O) enters the leaf through the stem (from the roots).

Upper epidermis

Energy from the Sun absorbed by chlorophyll

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Water (H$_2$O) enters the leaf through the stem (from the roots).

Energy from the Sun absorbed by chlorophyll enters the leaf.

Upper epidermis

veins
Glucose ($\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$) and Oxygen ($\text{O}_2$) are created in the chloroplasts.

Oxygen ($\text{O}_2$) is released through the stomata.

Carbon dioxide ($\text{CO}_2$) enters through the stomata.

Photosynthesis in a Plant Leaf Model (Bottom)
Glucose \((C_6H_{12}O_6)\) and Oxygen \((O_2)\) are created in the chloroplasts.

Carbon dioxide \((CO_2)\) enters through the stomata.

Oxygen \((O_2)\) is released through the stomata.