

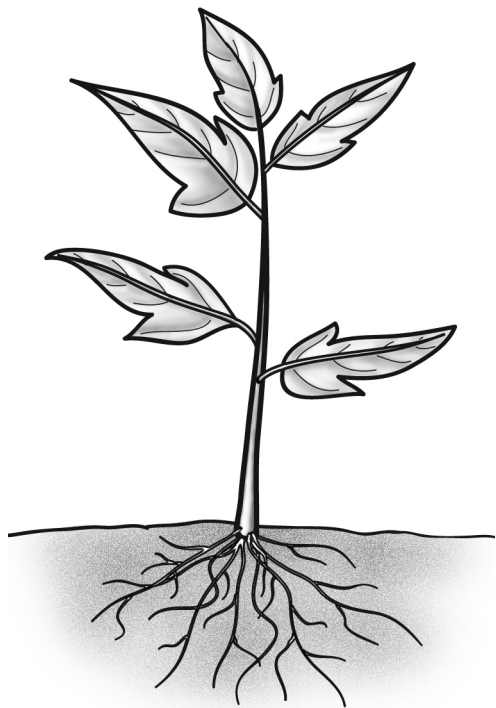
OBSERVING

Making Qualitative Observations

An observation is an act of noting and recording an event, characteristic, behavior, or anything else detected with an instrument or with the senses. Observations can be qualitative or quantitative. While quantitative observations are expressed in numbers, **qualitative observations** include descriptions of sights, sounds, smells, and textures. Qualitative observations are important to scientific investigations. You just might observe something unexpected that leads you to ask new questions.

Carefully inspect the diagram. Then record as many qualitative observations as possible. Remember, qualitative observations are descriptions, not measurements. Also, do not go beyond observing by trying to explain anything in the diagram.

Observations: _____



Challenge Evaluate this observation that a student wrote: “The plant’s leaves allow the plant to absorb sunlight.”
