



For each of the categories below, outline the role of plants and explain why they are important. Include at least one specific example in each category.

Ecosystems - including food chains

Atmosphere

Materials

Medical & Scientific

Challenge: Describe how your life would be different without plants.



For each of the categories below, outline the role of plants and explain why they are important. Include at least one specific example in each category.

Ecosystems - including food chains

- Plants are the first organism in food chains; they provide the energy (harnessed from the sun) for the consumers
- Plants can be food
- Plants can be a habitat for other animals, e.g oak trees
- Underwater plants release oxygen that allow fish and other water organisms to survive
- Plants drive the water cycle through transpiration
- Plants reduce the risk of flooding or landslides

Atmosphere

- Plants were responsible for the change in the Earth's atmosphere millions of years ago that led to animals evolving
- Plants take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen
- Plants can be used beside busy roads or around schools to help remove excess carbon dioxide from the air, cleaning it up

Materials

- Plants can be used as building materials, e.g wood for houses
- Plant material can be used to make things, e.g reeds for basket weaving, cotton plants provide us with fibres to make clothes
- Wood can be burnt for heating or cooking
- Paper is made from wood
- Flowers make dyes used in producing jeans

Medical & Scientific

- It is thought that the cures for all diseases can be found in the rainforest
- Willow tree bark provides us with aspirin
- Poppies give us pain killing medication
- Digitalis (fox gloves) provide us with heart medicine

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