

8-2 Photosynthesis: An Overview



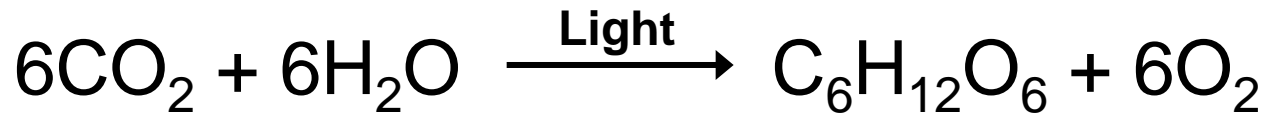
8-2 Photosynthesis: An Overview

Photosynthesis is the process in which green plants use the energy of sunlight to convert water and carbon dioxide into high-energy carbohydrates and oxygen.



The Photosynthesis Equation

The equation for photosynthesis is:



carbon dioxide + water $\xrightarrow{\text{Light}}$ sugars + oxygen

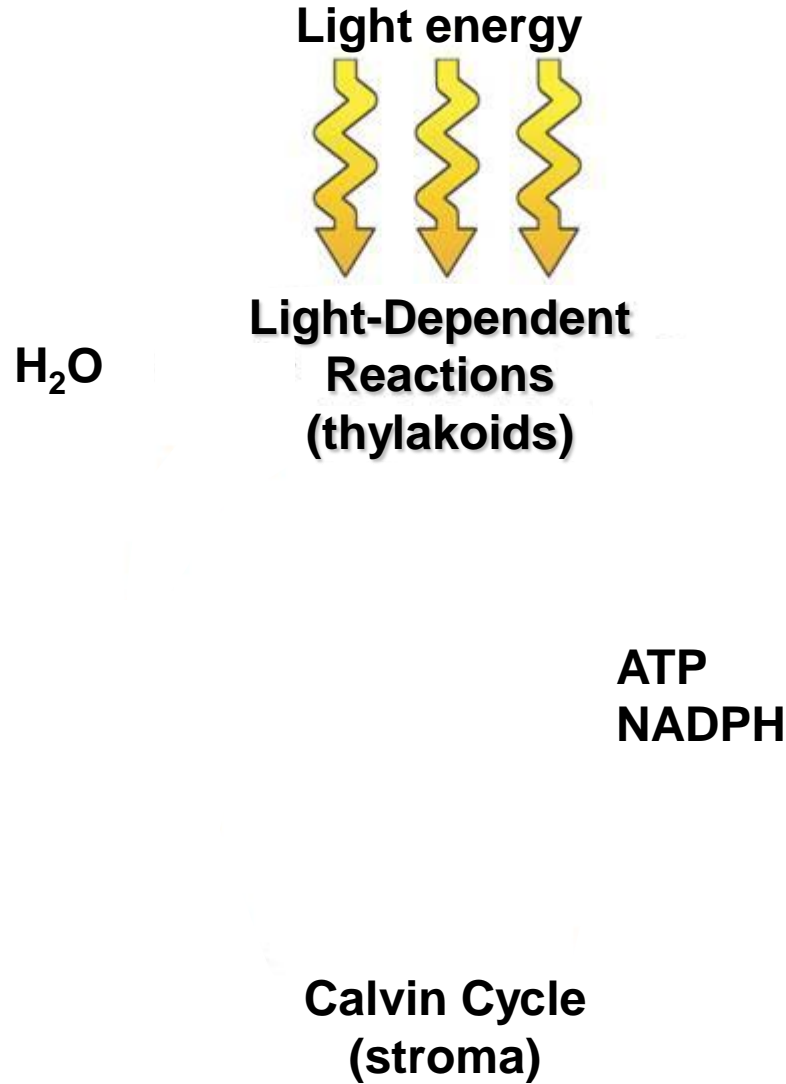
active art

click to start 

8-2 Photosynthesis: An Overview



The Photosynthesis Equation



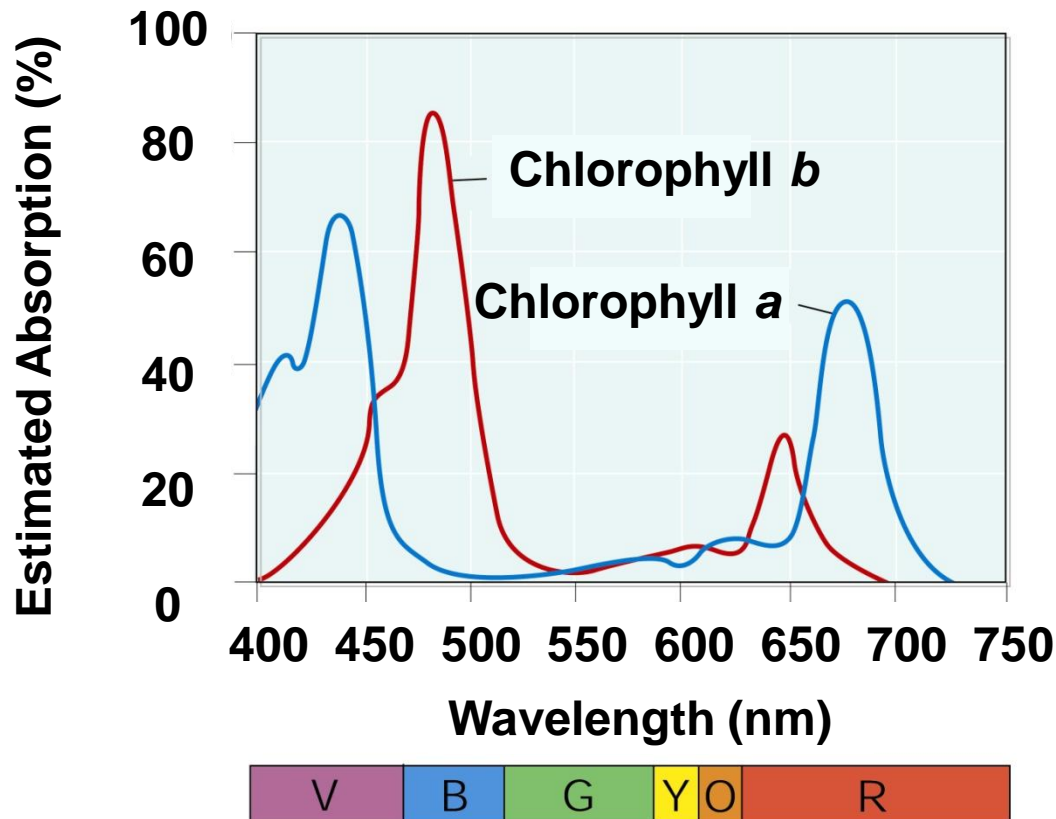
Plants gather the sun's energy with light-absorbing molecules called **pigments**.

The main pigment in plants is **chlorophyll**.

There are two main types of chlorophyll:

- chlorophyll *a*
- chlorophyll *b*

Chlorophyll does not absorb light well in the green region of the spectrum. Green light is reflected by leaves, which is why plants look green.



END OF SECTION