**Watch:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYxfz1PSfZ0>

**What Are Plants?**

**Plants** are multicellular eukaryotes that are placed in the **Plant Kingdom**. Plant cells have cell walls that are made of cellulose. Plant cells also have chloroplasts. They allow plants to make food by photosynthesis. In addition, plants have specialized reproductive organs that produce gametes. Male reproductive organs produce sperm. Female reproductive organs produce eggs. Male and female reproductive organs may be on the same plant or on different plants.

**Needs of Plants**

Plants are somewhat limited by temperature in terms of where they can grow. They need temperatures above freezing while they are actively growing. They also need light, carbon dioxide, and water. These substances are required for photosynthesis. Like most other living things, plants need oxygen. Oxygen is required for cellular respiration. In addition, plants need minerals. The minerals are required to make proteins and other organic molecules.

**Importance of Plants**

Life as we know it would not be possible without plants. Why are plants so important?

* Plants supply food to nearly all land organisms, including people. We mainly eat either plants or other living things that eat plants.
* Plants produce oxygen during photosynthesis. Oxygen is needed by all aerobic organisms.
* Plants absorb carbon dioxide during photosynthesis. This helps control the greenhouse effect and global warming.
* Plants recycle matter in ecosystems. For example, they are an important part of the water cycle. They take up liquid water from the soil through their roots. They release water vapor to the air from their leaves. This is called **transpiration**.
* Plants provide many products for human use. They include timber, medicines, dyes, oils, and rubber.
* Plants provide homes for many other living things. For example, a single tree may provide food and shelter to many species of animals, like the birds