

PONDERING PANDITJI!!!???

Notes from
Pandit Gobar Ganesh

TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS: RUSTAM VANIA

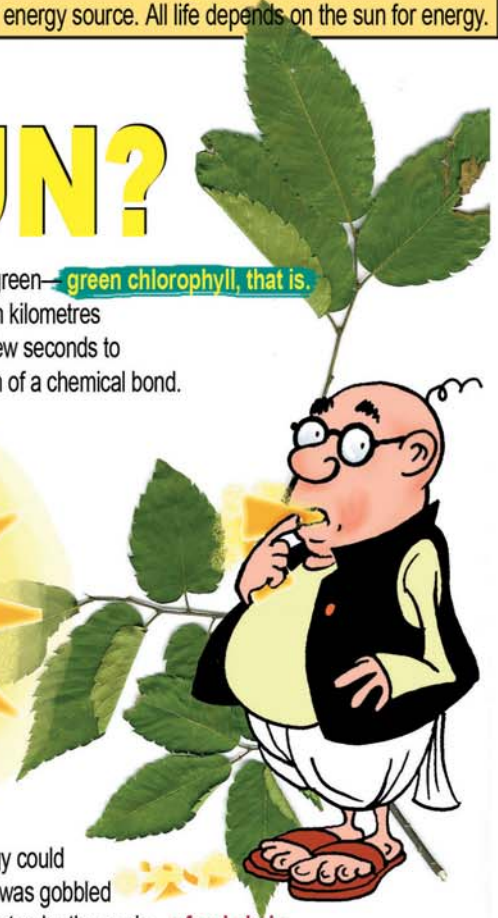
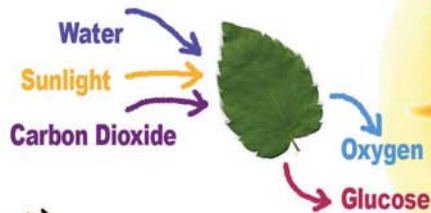


Solar energy is not an "alternative energy". It is the original and continuing primary energy source. All life depends on the sun for energy.

WHY CAN'T WE EAT THE SUN?

Ultimately, almost all life on our planet is fueled by the power of green—**green chlorophyll, that is.** It takes eight minutes for a photon of light to travel the 150 million kilometres from the sun to the Earth's surface. A green plant needs only a few seconds to capture the energy in that light, process it, and store it in the form of a chemical bond.

An amazing process for converting light energy to stored energy called **photosynthesis.**



This eagle (like all the rest of us) is powered by solar energy. It's food is a form of stored solar energy. For an eagle, the energy could have originally come from grass eaten by a grasshopper, which was gobbled by a frog, that was in turn preyed upon by a snake, which was eaten by the eagle - **a food chain.**



By better understanding photosynthesis, scientists hope to learn enough to improve farming techniques, make the generation of electricity more efficient, engineer new drugs and, ultimately, better understand the nature of life itself.

Next time you are studying biology or chemistry or geography ask yourself the question -

WHY STUDY PHOTOSYNTHESIS?

Write in, and let us and other GT readers know what you found out.