

Notes for Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration

Photosynthesis

- Plants, cyanobacteria, algae, and phytoplankton are all able to photosynthesize.
- Light is made up of photons of energy that travel in electromagnetic waves from the Sun towards Earth. (Photo – light /synthesis – to make)
- Different wavelengths of visible light produce different colors of light.
- Pigments are chemicals that absorb some light colors and reflect others.
- Chlorophyll is a pigment found in chloroplasts of plant cells that absorbs blue and red light but reflects green light.
- Accessory pigments also absorb light but can only be seen in the fall when then the light intensity decreases and plants can no longer make chlorophyll.
- During photosynthesis, light energy is used to split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen atoms.

