

# Poem: Illuminating Photosynthesis

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/methuselah/phot\\_atomic.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/methuselah/phot_atomic.html)



*Photosynthesis, the trapper of sunlight;  
it's needed for life to subsist.  
All plants use the process to make food;  
without it most life would desist.*



*CO<sub>2</sub> taken in goes through changes;  
its atoms get pulled to and fro.  
It loses an O, which sticks to two Hs;  
together they form H<sub>2</sub>O.*



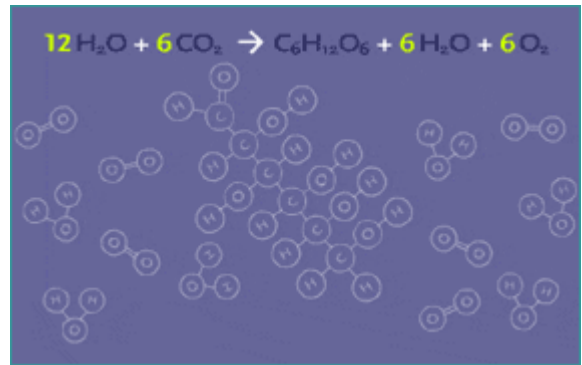
*The process begins with plain water  
but not from the tap does it flow.  
Some water is made within leaf cells  
but most is sucked up from below.*



*But the plant has a goal that is bigger in scope;  
it's out to make food it can keep.  
It builds a big structure of Cs, Hs, and Os;  
it's glucose, and boy is it sweet.*



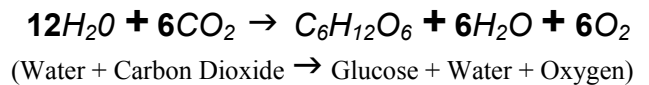
*With energy gained from sunlight,  
the Hs are stripped from each O.  
The oxygen atoms form twosomes,  
and out of the leaf they all go.*



*Some folks get a kick from equations,  
which explain things by some kind of law.  
If by chance you are one of these people,  
then this explains what you just saw.*



*Meanwhile CO<sub>2</sub> has just entered  
through holes in the leaf called stomata.  
The gas is exhaled by Earth's creatures,  
including all invertebrata.*



*(Chorus)* **Photosynthesis! Photosynthesis!**  
**Plants making food from the power of the sun**  
**Photosynthesis! Photosynthesis!**  
**Makes fresh oxygen for everyone**