

What is botany?

Botany is the study of plants, how they grow, what parts they have (like roots, stems, and leaves), how they make their own food using sunlight, and how they connect with the world around them.

What are people called when they study plants?

A botanist is a scientist who studies plants. Botanists study different parts of a plant, like the roots that soak up water, the stem that holds the plant up, and the leaves that make food using sunlight. Botanists study all sorts of plants, from tiny grass blades to giant trees.

How do plants make food?

Plants create their own food through a process called **photosynthesis**, where they

use sunlight, water, and **carbon dioxide** to make sugar.

Why are plants important?

Plants are important because they provide us with oxygen to breathe and food to eat.

Who are some notable Black botanists?

Some famous Black botanists include:

George Washington Carver (? – 1943)



George Washington Carver was a scientist and educator who was born into slavery. He invented over 300 uses for the peanut and developed techniques to help southern cotton plantations.

Marie Clark Taylor (1911 – 1990)



Dr. Marie Clark Taylor was the first African American woman to earn a **PhD** in botany from Fordham University. She later became the head of the botany department at Howard University.

Edmond Albius (1829 – 1880)



Edmond Albius was a **horticulturist** from **Réunion** who invented a method for **pollinating** vanilla orchids when he was 12 years old.