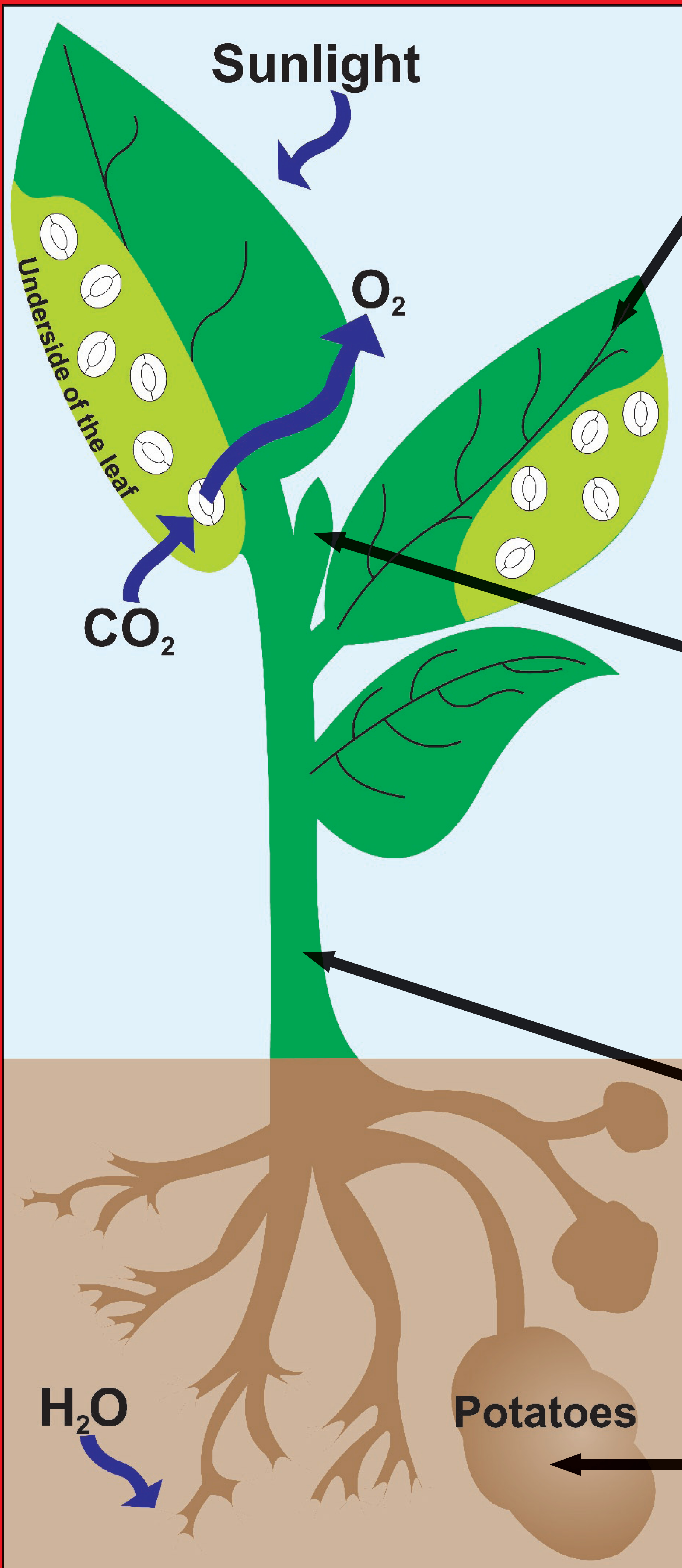
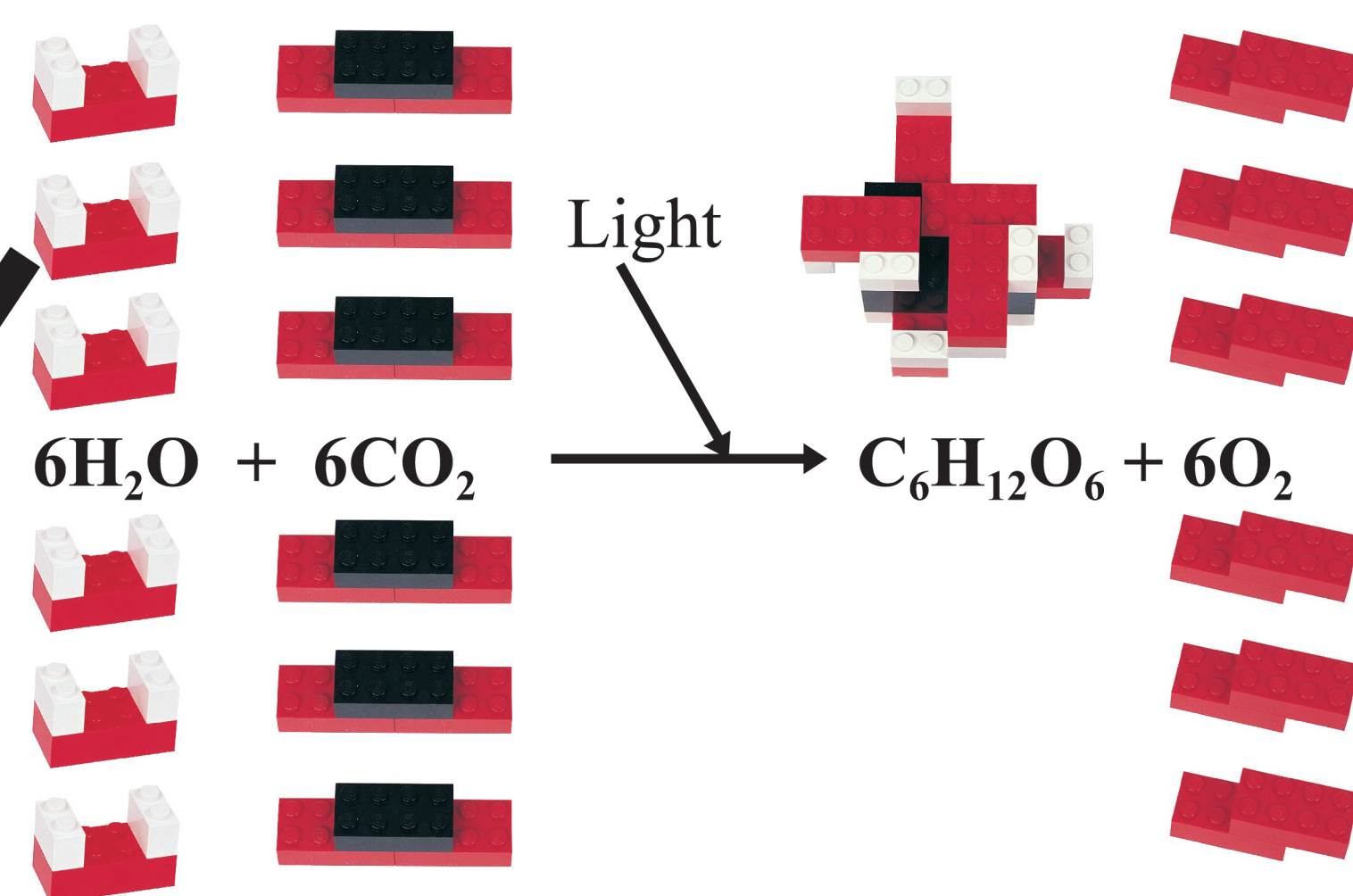


Plants from Thin Air?



Photosynthesis

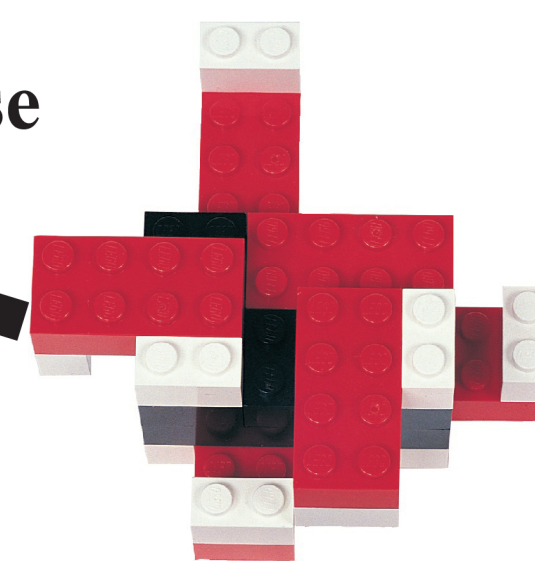
Plants make their own food called *glucose*. Water molecules and carbon dioxide molecules are combined to produce sugar molecules (glucose). Oxygen molecules are left over and are given off. The food factories are located in the leaves and are powered by sunlight.



Three ways plants use glucose:

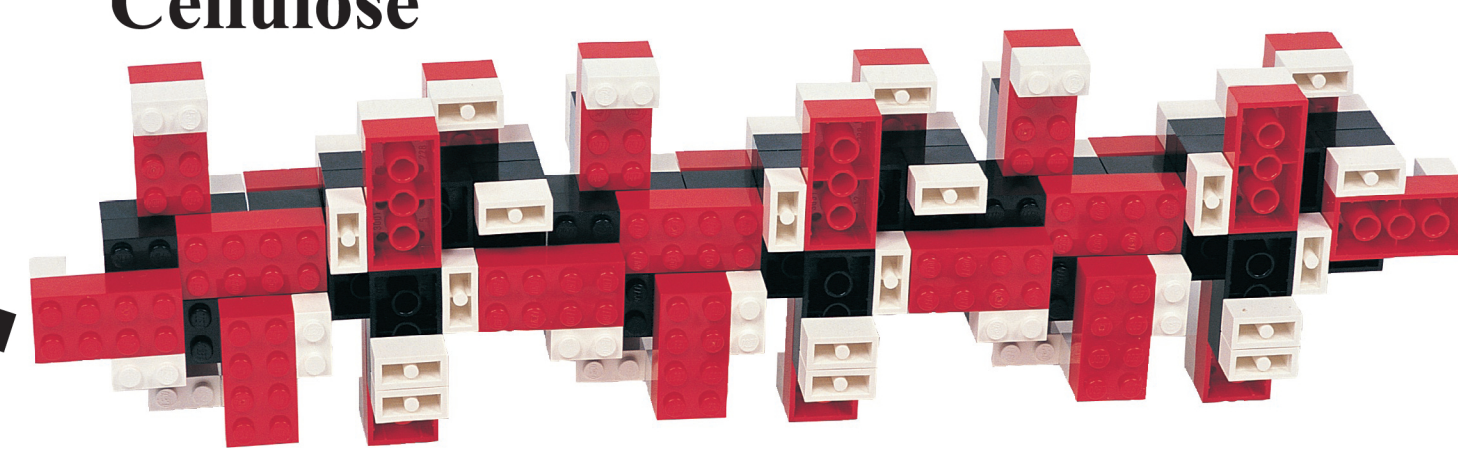
- 1) **Glucose is used for quick energy.**
Glucose travels through the plant's veins to different parts of the plant.

Glucose



- 2) **Glucose is made into plant structures.**
Glucose molecules link end to end to form a long, strong molecule called *cellulose*. Cellulose is found in leaves, veins, and stems and is the main component of wood.

Cellulose



- 3) **Glucose is stored for later use.**
Plants store sugar molecules as *starch* in different places – in seeds (wheat, corn), in fruits (apples), and in underground sites (potatoes).

Starch

