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Plants Need the Perfect Place

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What do you do when it's cold outside? Do you put on a sweater? Crawl under the blankets in your bed? Ask your parents to turn up the heat?

What do you do when it's hot outside? Do you wear shorts and T-shirts? Eat cold popsicles? Ask your parents to turn on a fan?

People live in cold places. They make their houses warm. They wear warm clothes. People live in hot places. They make their houses cool. They wear light clothes. People can live almost anywhere!

Plants and animals can't do many of these things. They can only live in certain types of places. They need to live in a place that is just right for them.

Let's visit Franklin Park in Columbus, Ohio. You can see lots of plants there. Some of the plants grow in Ohio. Some plants are from other parts of the world. You can see them in a special building.

Let's walk through the building. Each room looks and feels different. It shows a different part of the world. What kinds of plants live there?

One room is like the mountains. This room is cool. Plants that live here need cool temperatures.

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The next room is like the rainforest. This room is hot and humid! Huge plants grow here. They need warm temperatures and lots of rain.

The plants in the desert room don't need much water. It is dry here.

Giant ferns and palm trees grow in the last room. It is warm and humid here. The plants that grow here need a lot of water.

The plants that grow in the rooms can't grow outside in Ohio. They need just the right amount of heat. They need just the right amount of water. The people who take care of them make sure they get what they need.

Animals have to live in certain places, too. Can you name some animals that live in cold places? How about hot places? Where could you go to learn more about animals and the places they live?

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