



Glow Green

What is bioluminescence?

- Bioluminescence is when living things give off their own light.
- Fireflies, glow-worms, anglerfish and many types of mushroom are bioluminescent.

Illustration.: A bioluminescent plant.

Scientists Create Glowing Plants

We have all been taught about what plants need in order to grow. What do they need to glow, though?

Glowing plants and trees are a **common** sight in films and video games. But, could we be seeing them more often in people's homes?

Scientists think they have found a way to grow plants that glow in the dark.

They say that these glowing plants will allow them to study how plants respond to changes in their "**environmental** conditions".

This was **observed** when the scientists placed a banana skin near one of the plants. They noticed that the plant glowed more brightly.

Glowing plants could also help scientists to find out more about how plants react to different problems, such as root damage.

You may now be imagining all the glowing plants that you would like to see. Would you like a Christmas tree that can glow in

the dark? You'll need to be **patient** as you won't be able to buy these glowing plants for some time.

Interestingly, the researchers also wrote that, with further study, "luminescence could also be enabled in animals".

Who knows what the team of scientists will do next?

Glossary

common	Something ordinary or often seen.
environmental	The surroundings or conditions in which a thing lives.
observed	Noticed, spotted or seen.
patient	To be calm when something takes a long time.

Questions

1. What does bioluminescence mean?

2. Which statement best summarises the story?

- ☐ Scientists have created trees that glow in the dark.
- ☐ Scientists have created animals that glow in the dark.
- ☐ Scientists have created plants that glow in the dark.
- ☐ Scientists place fruit skins near glowing plants.

3. 'They say that these glowing plants will allow them to study how the plants respond to changes in their "environmental conditions"'

Which of the following verbs could be used as a synonym for 'study'?

- ☐ work hard
- ☐ learn
- ☐ discuss
- ☐ share

4. Tick whether the following statements are true or false according to the article.

	True	False
Anglerfish are bioluminescent.		
A banana skin made the plant glow more brightly.		
You can already buy glowing plants.		
The scientists think bioluminescence could be enabled in animals.		

5. You'll need to be patient as you won't be able to buy these glowing plants for some time.' This suggests that...

- ☐ Scientists are having a break.
- ☐ Houseplants can not grow in the dark.
- ☐ Scientists may need to do some more work before you can buy the plants.
- ☐ Scientists won't share their secrets.

6. What might the scientists do next?

Answers

1. What does bioluminescence mean?

Bioluminescence is when living things give off their own light.

2. Which statement best summarises the story?

- ☐ Scientists have created trees that glow in the dark.
- ☐ Scientists have created animals that glow in the dark.
- ☒ **Scientists have created plants that glow in the dark.**
- ☐ Scientists place fruit skins near glowing plants.

3. 'They say that these glowing plants will allow them to study how the plants respond to changes in their "environmental conditions"'

Which of the following verbs could be used as a synonym for 'study'?

- ☐ work hard
- ☒ **learn**
- ☐ discuss
- ☐ share

4. Tick whether the following statements are true or false according to the article.

	True	False
Anglerfish are bioluminescent.	✓	
A banana skin made the plant glow more brightly.	✓	
You can already buy glowing plants.		✓
The scientists think bioluminescence could be enabled in animals.	✓	

5. 'You'll need to be patient as you won't be able to buy these glowing plants for some time.'
This suggests that...

- ☐ Scientists are having a break.
- ☐ Houseplants can not grow in the dark.
- ☒ **Scientists may need to do some more work before you can buy the plants.**
- ☐ Scientists won't share their secrets.

6. What might the scientists do next?

Accept any reasonable answer that refers to the story, such as: I think the scientists will make glowing plants to sell; I think they will experiment on different plants; I think they will do an experiment to make a glowing animal.