

## 5.3 Grading the Explanations Tool: How does a cell in the root of a potato plant use food to grow and divide?

This worksheet has “grading” in the title because at this point, students can be held accountable for correct answers. Level 4 (correct) responses to the questions are in **blue bold italics** below. There are also comments about common Level 2 and Level 3 responses to help you with grading and making decisions about what to emphasize in future lessons.

*Red italics suggest ways to grade student responses by giving them points for correct or partially correct answers. There are 14 points total on this worksheet.*

Carbon TIME Discourse Routine around the Explanations Tool:

1. *Introduction: Students review their Evidence-Based Arguments Tools. Establish the purpose for completing the tool as developing a complete explanation for the unit phenomenon.*
2. *Private thinking and writing: Students complete the Explanations Tool individually.*
3. *Partner or small group work: Students share and compare ideas in pairs/small groups, with the goal of improving their explanations.*
4. *Sharing ideas in whole-class discussion: Class discussions serve to elicit, clarify, and compare explanations from individual students and/or student groups*
5. *Consensus-seeking discussion accompanied by public writing: Class discussions focus on coming to consensus around a correct, coherent explanation that answers the Three Questions while addressing the 4 steps. We recommend that students revise their explanations in a different colored pen/pencil.*

**The Matter Movement Question**

**Draw and label** arrows that show molecules moving into and being used into the root cell.

- Show and label molecules with carbon atoms moving into the root cell
- Label the molecules that stay in the root cell

**Level 4:**

- ***An arrow showing small organic molecules or monomers going into the root cell***
- ***An arrow showing soil minerals going into the root cell***
- ***A label showing large organic molecules (or polymers) staying in the root cell.***

*1 point for each correct arrow/molecule. 3 points total.*

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Name the chemical change that potato cells use to build large organic molecules:

***Biosynthesis***

*1 point for correct answer*

What molecules are carbon atoms in before the chemical change?

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What molecules are carbon atoms in after the chemical change?

**The Matter Change Question**

TIME

**Small organic molecules (or monomers such as amino acids, sugars, and fatty acids)**

*1 point for correct answer.*

What other molecules are needed?

**Soil minerals**

*1 point for correct answer.*

**Chemical Change**

**Large organic molecules (or fats/lipids, and proteins).**

*1 point for correct answer.*

What other molecules are produced?

**Water**

*1 point for correct answer*

**The Energy Question**

What forms of energy go into this chemical change?

**Chemical energy**

*1 point for correct answer.*

**Energy Transformation**

What forms of energy come out of this chemical change?

**Chemical energy.**

*1 point for correct response.*

**Explain in words:** How does cell in a potato plant use food to grow larger and divide? (*Answer on the back*).

*Use this Explanations Tool to help guide your written explanation, being sure to answer the Three Questions*

Remember: **Atoms last forever** (so you can arrange atoms into new molecules, but can't add or subtract atoms).

**Energy lasts forever** (so you can change forms of energy, but energy units can't appear or go away).

**Level 4 responses should include answers to each of the four numbered steps on the Three Questions poster and handout:**

- 1. Matter movement: Small organic molecules (or monomers, such as amino acids, sugars, fatty acids, and glycerol) and soil minerals enter the root cell.**
- 2. Matter change: The small organic molecules and soil minerals are combined to make large organic molecules (or polymers, such as carbohydrates, fats/lipids, and proteins).**
- 3. Energy change: The chemical energy stored in the C-C and C-H bonds in the small organic molecules (monomers) stays in these bonds when they are combined into large organic molecules (polymers).**
- 4. Matter movement: The cell grows bigger and may eventually divide as more large organic molecules (polymers) are made.**

*Level 2 and 3 responses may describe cells using small organic molecules to grow but focus on the small organic molecules being used for energy in order for the cell to grow and divide.*

*1 point for each correct part of the answer*

*4 points total*