

Winter Green

A greenhouse is a building with walls and a roof made mostly from glass. With controlled temperatures and protection from the weather outside, plants can be grown all year even in very cold places.



Visit the Frick's greenhouse to enjoy beautiful plants all year long!

Greenhouses work because the sun's rays come through the glass roof as light energy. When it hits the plants and soil of the greenhouse, the light energy changes into heat energy. Heat energy can't get back out through the glass as easily as light energy came in, so the temperature stays higher inside.

Think about a car parked in the summer sun. Sunshine comes through the windows to heat up the inside. The heat energy can't get back outside through the windows, so the car heats up, just like the greenhouse.

A greenhouse can overheat and cook the plants in the summer when too much sunlight pours in. Some greenhouses have fans to push extra heat out through the windows. Other greenhouses get a coat of white paint to block some of the sun's rays—kind of like the sun lotion we put on our skin! So when you see a greenhouse that looks white, just remember the name comes from the green plants inside, not the color of the building.

Plants need more than just sunshine and warmth, plants need water, minerals and room to grow. Add tender loving care, and you have happy plants all year round!

Try these greenhouse riddles!

1. What can go up and down without moving?
2. Which moves faster, heat or cold?
3. What vegetable might you find in the greenhouse basement?
4. Three in a greenhouse, two in a beet; none in our sun's rays, but one in its heat. What is it?

ANSWERS 1. The temperature 2. Heat; you can catch a cold
3. cellar-y 4. the letter 'e'