



NATURE AT HOME

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



The LAWS of Life

View the video at DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home

What determines where a plant will grow? The answer is The LAWS of Life!



These *Woodland Star* flowers share a “mini” or microclimate with a tiny *Woods Rose*.

Why are these plants growing here? The answer is The LAWS of LIFE.



As **LIGHT** from the sun falls on this rock in early spring, the rock heats up and warms the **soil** under and around it. Most plants depend on sunlight to manufacture food through a process called photosynthesis. *The amount of available sunlight is part of what determines where a plant can grow.*

Wind is air on the move. **AIR** can be humid or dry, hot, warm or cold. It can be still or blustery, cloudy or clear, fresh or polluted. *All of these conditions help determine where a plant can grow.* AIR contains Carbon Dioxide, CO₂. Plants need LIGHT, CO₂ and WATER to manufacture food. Plants are the only organisms that make their own food.

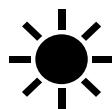
All life needs **WATER**. Some of the water that falls on top of this rock flows down into the area where these plants grow. Water may even flow through the soil under the rock to these plants. *The amount of available water is part of what determines where a plant can grow.*

There is a built-up area of rich **SOIL** under the edge of this rock. This soil may have been deposited by the wind. The decomposed remains of last year’s *Woodland Stars* add nutrients to the soil. Soil can be sandy or rocky, thin or deep. It can contain a little or a lot of decomposed organic matter. It can be cold to hot, dry to wet. *All of these different soil conditions help determine where a plant can grow.*

LIGHT, AIR, WATER, SOIL. None of these are alive, but together they determine which plants grows where.

The LAWS of Life

Light



Air



Water



Soil



The next time you walk in your yard, neighborhood, park, or a natural area, look for places that have different combinations of LIGHT, AIR, WATER and SOIL. See what plants are the same and which are different.

Share what you discover at Education@DishmanHills.org.