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STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE

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▶ Nutrition in Animals

All animals require food for obtaining energy, growth, repair of damaged parts and functioning of the body. The process of taking food by an animal and its utilisation in the body is called animal nutrition.

Plants can prepare their own food by the process of photosynthesis but animals get their food from plants, either directly by eating plants or indirectly by eating other animals that eat plants. Some animals eat both plants and other animals.

Animal nutrition includes nutrient requirements mode of intake of food and its utilisation in the body.

The components of food such as carbohydrates are complex substances which cannot be utilised by the body. So, they are broken down into simpler substances. The process of breakdown of complex components of food into simpler substances is called digestion. There are two methods of digesting food, i.e. physical method (including chewing and grinding of food in mouth) and chemical method (addition of digestive juices to the food by the body itself).