

The Fascinating Venus Flytrap

The Venus Flytrap is not an ordinary plant. Like other plants, the Venus Flytrap gets food from the air and from the soil but it also eats insects to stay healthy.



The leaves of the Venus Flytrap have two sections. On the inside of each leaf are short, stiff hairs called sensitive hairs. If an insect touches these hairs, the two parts of the leaf snap shut trapping the insect inside. The trap can close in less than one second. The trap closes tightly for five to twelve days. During this time, the plant uses digestive juices like those we have in our stomach to digest the soft parts of the insect. Once the insect is digested, the leaves open and the hard leftover parts of the insect are blown or washed away.

The Venus Flytrap is a very clever plant. If a stone, nut, or human finger touches the sensitive hairs, the trap will shut but only to reopen in a day.

People find the Venus Flytrap fascinating. Unfortunately, too many plants have been collected and now the Venus Flytrap is an endangered plant. Today it is grown in greenhouses.

Workout A

Answer the following questions.

1. What makes the Venus Flytrap different from other plants?

2. What happens when an insect touches the leaves of the plant?

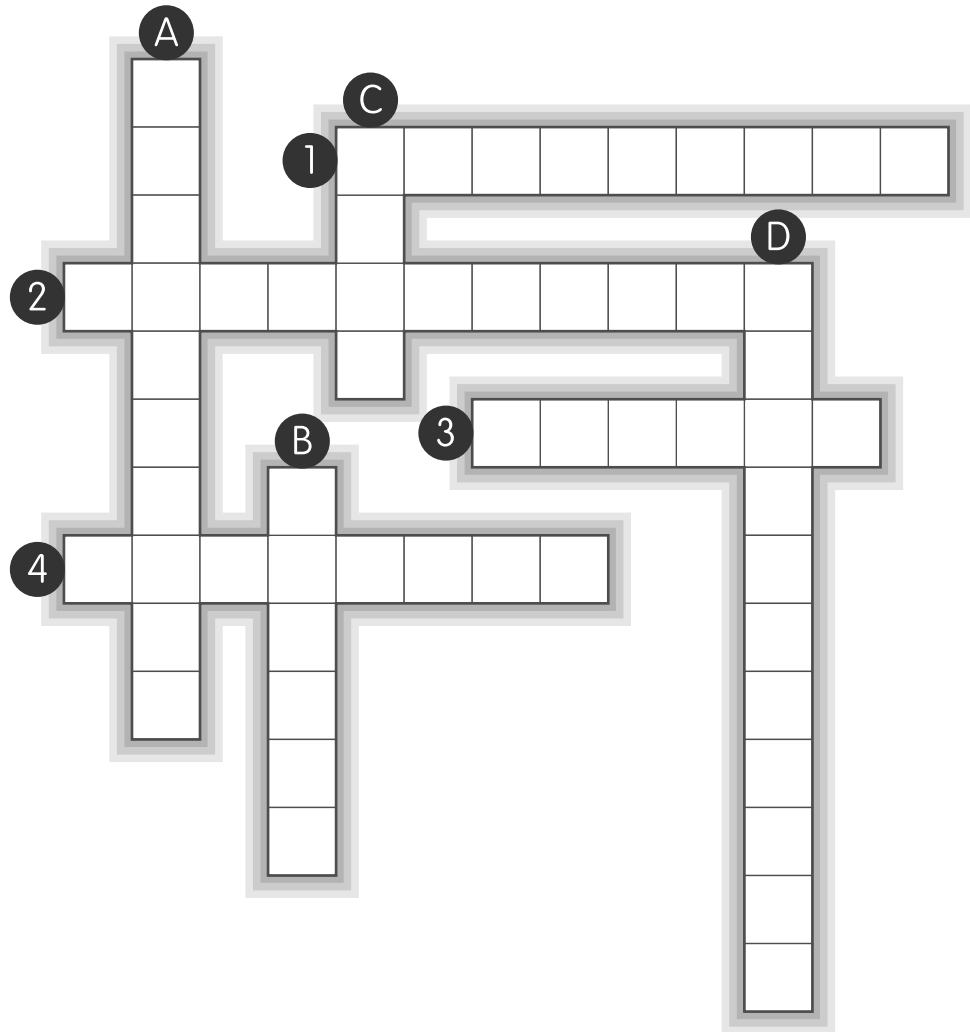
3. Why is the Venus Flytrap a "clever" plant?

4. Why has this plant become an endangered plant?

5. What do you find most interesting about the Venus Flytrap?

Workout B

Complete the crossword puzzle using words found in the story.



Across

1. that easily reacts to change
2. interesting
3. intelligent
4. normal

Down

- A. in danger of disappearing
- B. what our stomachs do
- C. dirt
- D. places where plants are grown and taken care of