

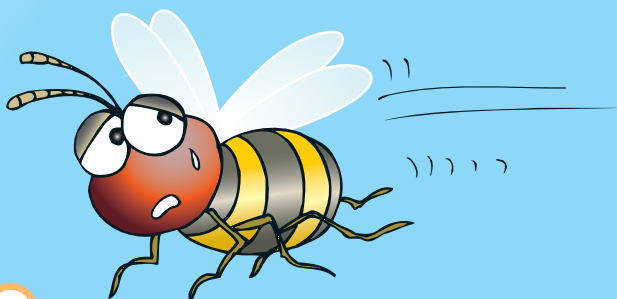
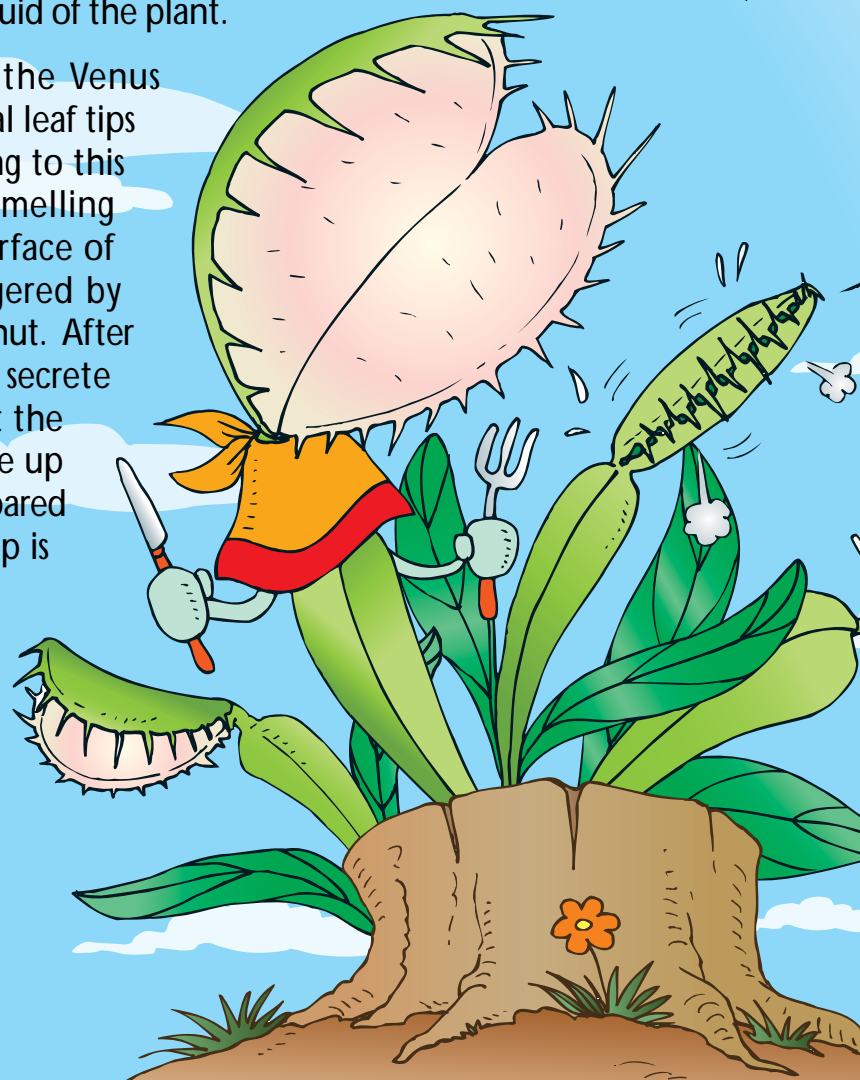
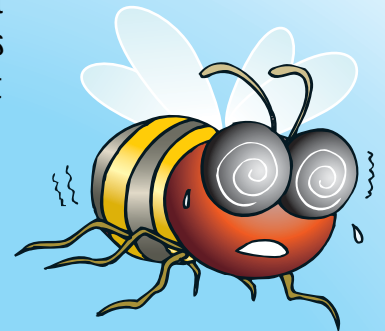
Plants are bright colourful adornments of nature that feed on sunlight and water. Or so we think. Many plants are, in fact, carnivorous. Science fiction movies have frightened us with horror stories of man-eating plants that swallow human beings whole. This notion may seem absurd to us, but it is an ugly truth for many an unsuspecting insect.

Meat-Eating Plants

Some species of plants require the meat of an insect as a dietary supplement. There are two types of meat-eating plants. Some plants such as the Venus Flytrap actually move to capture their prey. Other plants sit and wait and let the insects

trap themselves. The Sticky Sundew is covered with sticky hairs that produce a type of glue that sticks to the unsuspecting insect when it lands. The hairs then close over it and it is absorbed into the plant. The Cobra Lily, named for its snake-like appearance, lures insects by its nectar. Once an insect enters the plant, it becomes confused by the light shining through the leaves. Following this light to escape, it becomes exhausted and drops into the liquid of the plant.

The best known predator plant is the Venus Flytrap. Insects are attracted by the unusual leaf tips and cannot resist landing on them. Adding to this lure is the promise of food from sweet smelling nectar. After the insect alights on the surface of the leaf, two kidney-shaped lobes, triggered by sensitive bristles at the top of the leaf, snap shut. After about half an hour, the Venus Flytrap will secrete enzymes and acids which will slowly digest the insect. Full digestion of an insect may take up to two weeks and the trap will then be prepared for another victim. When the Venus Flytrap is ready to eat again, the trap opens and the exoskeleton of the devoured insect is blown away in the wind.





Remembering Details

A. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words from the list provided.

Venus Flytrap enzymes diet carnivorous wind insects
nectar Sticky Sundew weeks confused exoskeleton

Some plants are 1. _____ , that is they eat meat. They feed on unsuspecting 2. _____. For some plants, meat is a necessary supplement to their regular 3. _____. The 4. _____ actually moves to catch its prey while the 5. _____ has a sticky surface that traps its catch. The Cobra Lily lures insects by its sweet smelling 6. _____. Once an insect enters the Cobra Lily, it becomes 7. _____ by the light and loses its way, eventually drowning in the plant's juice. The Venus Flytrap breaks down and digests an insect using 8. _____ and acids. Full digestion of an insect can take up to two 9. _____. The Venus Flytrap, after digesting its victim, lets the 10. _____ blow away the discarded 11. _____ of the insect. Once this is done, the leaves open up again ready for the next meal.



In Your Own Words

B. Suggest three titles for horror movies about killer plants.

(Be humorous if you choose.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Subordinate Clauses

- A **Subordinate Clause** has a noun and a verb and usually begins with a connecting word or conjunction. Unlike a sentence, it cannot stand on its own without more information to complete its meaning.

Examples: 1. although I enjoy eating pizza
2. when I was walking home from school

- These subordinate clauses cannot stand on their own as sentences. They require more information to convey a complete thought as written below:

Examples: 1. I want to have Indian food although I enjoy eating pizza.
2. When I was walking home from school, I met Kate.

C. Place parentheses () around the subordinate clause in each of the following sentences.

1. Whenever I run too fast, my legs ache.
2. After we played the game, we ordered pizza.
3. The police arrived quickly because it was an emergency.
4. He knew he could stay as long as he wanted.
5. Even if they had tried harder, they could not have won the game.
6. She rode off on her bike as the sun set.
7. He acted as if no one could see what he was doing.
8. Although the students were well-behaved, they stayed in for recess.
9. She watched television while she waited for her friend to call.
10. He knew that even if he tried, he could not forget what happened.
11. Can you tell me where he has gone for lunch?
12. I don't know what happened since I wasn't there.
13. The UFO disappeared before I could take a photo of it.



Searching for Synonyms

D. Find and circle the synonyms for the words in the list. The synonyms are words in the passage.

1. addition
2. lands
3. leak
4. victim
5. dazed
6. food
7. decorations
8. hunter
9. strange
10. eaten

b	o	w	p	r	e	d	a	t	o	r	d
e	k	o	l	t	z	r	m	s	b	y	i
k	c	c	p	s	f	a	x	w	j	u	e
r	o	s	u	p	p	l	e	m	e	n	t
u	n	h	g	r	p	i	q	e	j	u	a
l	f	n	c	e	a	g	r	h	e	s	r
x	u	n	s	y	d	h	u	c	v	u	y
p	s	e	c	r	e	t	e	a	g	a	p
j	e	n	t	w	e	s	b	u	e	l	u
a	d	o	r	n	m	e	n	t	s	q	s
n	g	d	e	v	o	u	r	e	d	m	k
w	c	r	a	f	t	i	v	y	o	r	e



Writing Sentences

E. Make a sentence with each group of words from the passage.

1. predator prey devoured

2. dietary supplement unusual
