

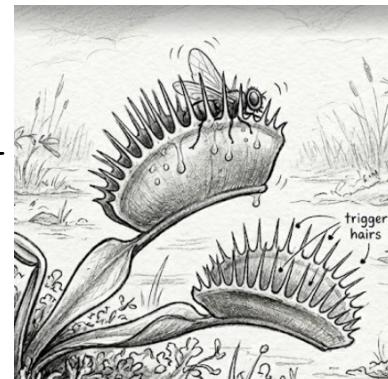


Name: _____

THE PLANT THAT EATS BUGS

Did you know that some plants are actually hunters? Most plants just sit quietly and soak up the sun, but the Venus flytrap is completely different. It lives in wet, swampy areas where the soil is very poor and missing the healthy nutrients that plants need to grow. To survive in this tough home, the Venus flytrap had to become clever. It developed a fascinating way to catch and eat live insects to get its food instead!

The plant's leaves look like little green monsters with sharp "teeth" along the edges. Inside the leaf, there are tiny, invisible hairs. When a fly or a beetle lands on the leaf and touches these hairs twice, SNAP! The leaf slams shut in less than a second.



Trigger hairs on a Venus flytrap

Because the leaf closes so quickly, the insect is trapped inside. The plant then produces special juices that break down the bug. After a few days, the plant opens back up, ready for its next meal!

1. What causes the Venus flytrap to eat insects instead of just using the soil?

- A) It likes the taste of bugs better.
- B) It lives in poor, swampy soil that misses healthy nutrients.
- C) The sun shines too bright.

2. According to the passage, what happens as an effect when a bug touches the tiny hairs inside the leaf twice?

- A) The leaf slams shut.
- B) The plant grows a new flower.
- C) The bug flies away safely.

3. Because the plant produces special juices inside the trapped leaf, what is the effect on the insect?

- A) The insect gets bigger.
- B) The insect is broken down so the plant can eat it.
- C) The insect falls asleep.