

Plant Surprise Files

Compare what you know with new details in an informational text.

4.P.EICC.3.c “Draw from, compare, build, and integrate prior knowledge with the material in the text, addressing inconsistencies or gaps and adding to knowledge repertoires as appropriate. (I)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail that fits with something you already know about plants, circle one detail that adds to or changes that knowledge, and number one question the text does not answer.

The Venus Flytrap

- ① Many people know that plants use sunlight to make food. A Venus flytrap does this too, using its green leaves. Yet this plant also catches small animals, which may seem surprising. Venus flytraps grow naturally in wet, sandy areas of North and South Carolina. The soil there has little nitrogen and few other nutrients that plants need.
- ② Inside each trap are tiny trigger hairs. When a small animal touches a trigger hair, the trap does not always close right away. The trap closes after two separate touches to trigger hairs within a short time. The two touches can be on the same hair or on different hairs. This helps the plant avoid closing for a single raindrop or bit of windblown dirt.
- ③ After the trap closes, it digests the animal and takes in nutrients, including nitrogen. The plant still gets its energy from sunlight, so catching animals does not replace photosynthesis. This information can add to what you know about plants: most make food with light, but some also get nutrients in unusual ways. Scientists protect the wetlands where Venus flytraps grow because those habitats are limited.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which earlier idea about plants does the text confirm, and which new detail adds to that idea?

2 A student says, "If a Venus flytrap catches animals, it cannot make its own food." What detail from the passage corrects this claim?

3 A student thinks a Venus flytrap closes after one touch to a trigger hair. What information in the passage changes that idea?

4 What exact timing detail is missing from the passage about the two touches? Why is this a gap?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write three sentences. State one thing you knew about plants before reading, add one new fact from the passage, and ask one question that the text leaves unanswered.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail that fits with something you already know about plants, circle one detail that adds to or changes that knowledge, and number one question the text does not answer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which earlier idea about plants does the text confirm, and which new detail adds to that idea?	It confirms that plants use sunlight to make food. It adds that Venus flytraps also digest small animals to get nutrients.
2	A student says, "If a Venus flytrap catches animals, it cannot make its own food." What detail from the passage corrects this claim?	The passage says the flytrap still gets its energy from sunlight, and catching animals does not replace photosynthesis.
3	A student thinks a Venus flytrap closes after one touch to a trigger hair. What information in the passage changes that idea?	The trap closes after two separate touches to trigger hairs within a short time. The touches can be on the same hair or different hairs.
4	What exact timing detail is missing from the passage about the two touches? Why is this a gap?	The passage does not give an exact number of seconds or minutes between the touches. It only says they must happen within a short time.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before reading, I knew that green plants use sunlight to make food. Now I know that a Venus flytrap can digest small animals for nutrients while still using sunlight for energy. I wonder how long the short time is between two trigger-hair touches.

Accept equivalent wording that clearly separates the plant's food or energy from the nutrients it gets from animals. For the final question, accept any accurate statement that the passage gives no exact time interval.