

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 Before reading, tell a partner one idea you have about plants. Then read: underline a detail that confirms it or circle a detail that changes or adds to it. Tell your partner one question the text leaves unanswered.

The Venus Flytrap

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.

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 usually 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.

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 What familiar idea about how plants make food is stated in the first paragraph?

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 flytrap always closes after one tap on a trigger hair. What usual pattern does this passage describe?

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

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences: state your earlier idea about plants, explain how a passage fact confirms, changes or adds to it, and ask a relevant question that this text does not answer. Your question can be about any missing detail.

Connect, update and question

Use your own earlier idea and a fact from the text. Make the connection clear, then end with an unanswered question.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Before reading, tell a partner one idea you have about plants. Then read: underline a detail that confirms it or circle a detail that changes or adds to it. Tell your partner one question the text leaves unanswered. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What familiar idea about how plants make food is stated in the first paragraph?	Plants use sunlight to make food.
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 flytrap always closes after one tap on a trigger hair. What usual pattern does this passage describe?	The trap usually closes after two separate touches within a short time. The touches can be on the same hair or different hairs.
4	What exact timing detail is missing about the two touches? Why is this a gap?	The passage gives no exact interval between touches. "Within a short time" is too vague to tell the reader how many seconds may pass.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before reading, I knew that green plants use sunlight to make food. Now I can add that flytraps also obtain nutrients by digesting small animals, so catching prey does not replace photosynthesis. I wonder how long a flytrap can live.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

For question 4, accept an explanation that the exact interval is absent. For Your Turn, accept any relevant unanswered question, such as lifespan, trap size or timing, together with an accurate connection between prior knowledge and text. Do not require the model's particular prior idea or question. The passage describes the usual two-touch pattern; experiments show a single controlled hair deflection at certain speeds can sometimes trigger closure. Science references: NC State Extension, "Venus Flytrap - *Dionaea muscipula*" (plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/dionaea-muscipula/); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Avoid buying poached Venus flytrap plants" (fws.gov/story/2020-06/avoid-buying-poached-venus-flytrap-plants); Burri and colleagues, 2020, "A single touch can provide sufficient mechanical stimulation to trigger Venus flytrap closure" (pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7351144/).