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# The Bug Eating Marvel

The Venus Flytrap is a very special plant that you might find fascinating. It's not like other plants because it can catch and eat bugs! This plant is native to the wetlands of the East Coast of the United States, particularly in North and South Carolina.



Now, you might be wondering how a plant can eat bugs. Well, the Venus Flytrap has leaves that are shaped like a trap. These traps have two lobes with tiny hairs on them. When an insect, like a fly or a spider, lands on the leaf and touches these hairs, the trap snaps shut very quickly! It's like a little door that closes in less than a second.

Once the trap is closed, the plant starts to digest the bug. It produces digestive juices that break down the bug into nutrients that the plant can use to grow. This is really important for the Venus Flytrap because it lives in places where the soil doesn't have many nutrients. So, eating bugs helps it get what it needs to survive.

The Venus Flytrap is also very picky about what it eats. It only closes its trap if an insect touches the hairs two times or if something heavy lands on it. This way, it doesn't waste energy trying to digest things that aren't bugs.

These plants are also very pretty to look at. They have green leaves with red edges, and they bloom with white flowers in the summer. But remember, even though they're pretty, they're not toys. You should never try to touch or play with them because they can close on your fingers!

The Venus Flytrap is a great example of how plants can adapt to their environment in unique ways. It's like having a little bug-eating machine right in your backyard!

1. Read the passage and underline any word or sentence you struggled with.
2. Answer the questions on the following page.

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Answer according to the reading passage:

**1. What is special about this plant?**

- a. it eats worms
- b. it blooms every 10 years
- c. it eats bugs

**2. The plant is native to the:**

- a. desert
- b. wetlands
- c. forest

**3. When does the plant close its trap?**

- a. when an insect touches the hairs two times
- b. when something heavy lands on it
- c. both of above

**4. The Venus Flytrap has:**

- a. red leaves with green edges
- b. green leaves with red edges
- c. green leaves and green edges

**5. The Venus Flytrap blooms:**

- a. in the summer
- b. all year
- c. spring and fall

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## Open Response Questions

### Open Response Questions for Thinking Skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. Why is this reading passage a good example of how plants adapt to their environment?
  2. Why does the Venus Flytrap need to eat insects?
  3. What is the main idea of this reading passage?
  4. Describe what a Venus Flytrap looks like and how it catches insects.
- How does the Venus Flytrap's method of obtaining nutrients differ from other plants, and what advantages does this give it?
  - Discuss the ethical considerations of keeping a Venus Flytrap as a pet. What are the responsibilities for doing so?
  - What 3 questions do you have about the Venus Flytrap?
  - What conservation efforts need to be made for the Venus Flytrap considering man's impact on the environment.