

#ScienceSquad

Venus Fly Trap Final

1. Go through the PowerPoint on carnivorous plants I have posted.
2. Begin the reading and answer the questions. Please email me your responses. My email is smcgovern@yonkerspublicschools.org
3. Make sure to follow my Instagram where I will be reviewing this info too!



Overview: The Venus fly trap is a carnivorous plant which is well known for eating insects and spiders. They are also known by their scientific name *Dionaea muscipula*. They are close relatives of the waterwheel plant and sundews.

Name: The Venus flytrap is named after Venus the Roman goddess of love. Their scientific name refers to Dione who was a Greek goddess. They have also been known as the mousetrap.

Description: The Venus fly trap is a small plant and usually grows to be 3-10 centimeters. They have a rosette of 4-7 leaves. The leaf blade is split into two sections which are the heart shaped petiole and a pair of lobes. They are usually red in color and will produce white flowers in the spring. They can live for 20-30 years in the wild.

Catching Prey: The venus fly trap has small hairs known as trichomes which allow them to detect prey. If prey walks over 2-3 of the trichomes over a 20 second period the plant will snap on the insects. There are small holes which allow small insects to escape. The trap will reopen after 12 hours of snapping and catching its prey.

Diet: The venus fly trap is a carnivore and most commonly eats ants, spiders, beetles, grasshoppers, and small flying insects.

Habitat: Although the venus fly trap can be cultivated in many parts of the world they are native and found in the eastern part of the United States. They can be most commonly found in the Wilmington, North Carolina area. They prefer to live in bogs, and wet savannahs.

Conservation: There are 3-6 million fly traps around the world which have been cultivated indoors and outside. Today there are only 30,000 living in their natural habitat. Their native species are listed as vulnerable on the endangered animals list.

Review Questions

1. What are two close relatives of the Venus fly trap?

2. What was Venus the Roman goddess of?

- a) fruit
- b) beach
- c) love
- d) sun

3. What is another name they have been known as?

- a) mousetrap
- b) snapping turtle
- c) flying machines
- d) purple dinosaur

4. How big do they grow?

5. How many Rosette leaves do they have?

- a) 1-2
- b) 2-3
- c) 4-7
- d) 10-15

6. What color are they?

- a) black
- b) red
- c) yellow
- d) brown

7. What color flowers do they bloom?

8. How many years can they live in the wild?

- a) 1-2
- b) 10-20
- c) 20-30
- d) 50-100

9. What are the small hairs on the Venus fly trap known as?

10. Over how many seconds does an insect have to walk across the trichomes 2-3 times for the Venus fly trap to close?

- a) 10 seconds
- b) 20 seconds
- c) 30 seconds
- d) 1 hour

11. After how long does the trap open up after being snapped?

12. What are four things the Venus fly trap eats?

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13. Where can they most commonly be found in the wild?

- a) Boston, Mass
- b) Providence, RI
- c) Wilmington, North Carolina
- d) Las Vegas, Nevada

14. How many Venus Fly traps are currently living in the wild?

15. What is their preferred habitat?
