

Grades 3-5

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Carnivorous Plants
Carnivorous plants have special ways of getting food.

Most plants use sunlight, water, and **nutrients** from the soil to get the food they need to grow and survive. Carnivorous plants grow in places where the soil is poor in nutrients. They get the nutrients they are missing by capturing and eating small animals and insects.

There are many different types of carnivorous plants. These different plants are not all related to each other. However, they do share common features. All carnivorous plants use their leaves as traps to catch food. Sticky traps attach to insects and stop them from escaping. Snap traps close on prey. When animals fall into pitfall traps, they are unable to get out again.

The leaves of Venus flytraps snap together to capture insects.

Sundews use their sticky hairs to catch insects and other prey.

Pitcher Plant
Pitcher plants have a pitfall trap. They create sweet smells to attract insects. Pitcher plants have leaves that look like flowers for insects to eat.

Insects, such as flies, enter the leaves to eat. The insects become trapped in the leaves and are **digested**.

The outer edges of the leaf are covered in hairs. They make it hard for the insect to crawl out of the pitcher.

Liquid in the pitcher plant keeps flying insects from taking off.

The waxy sides of the leaf make it very difficult for insects to climb out.

The insect falls into the liquid at the bottom of the plant and is broken down by **acids**.

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