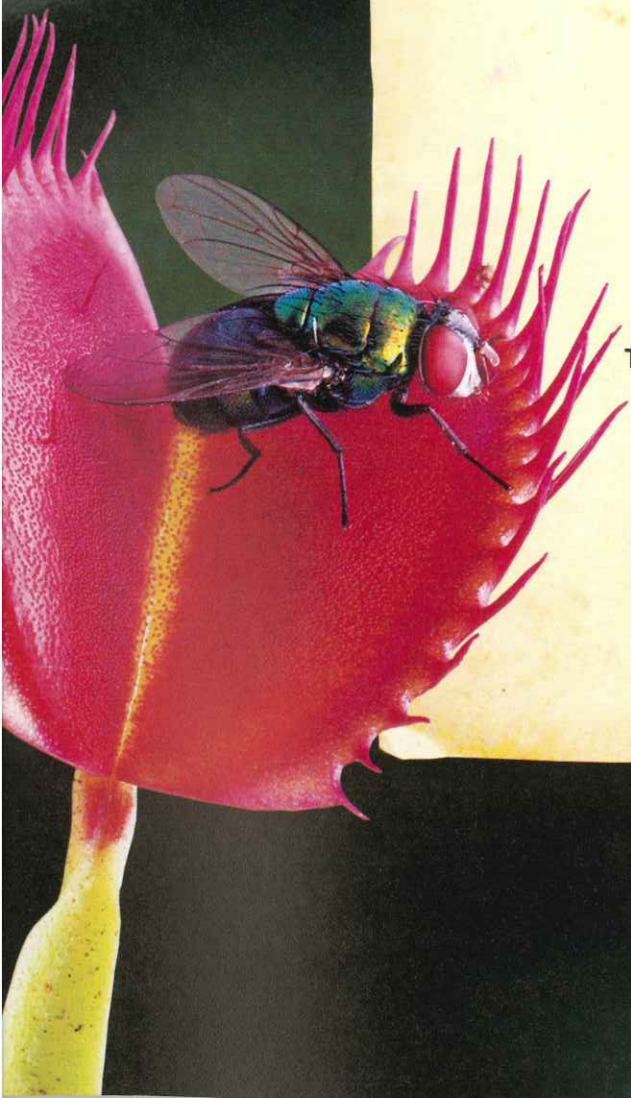




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Unusual Adaptations

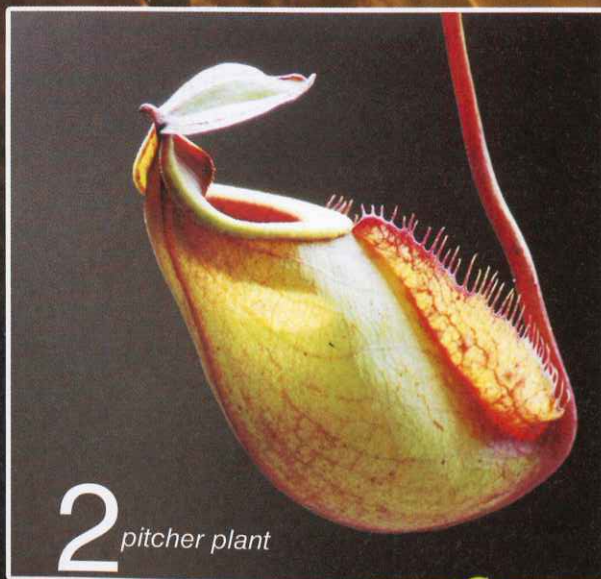
The plant kingdom is a massive group of organisms that includes trees, flowers, shrubs, grasses, vegetables, seaweeds, and more. There are approximately 300,000 species. Plants usually grow in soil and live by creating energy from sunlight. They grow in almost every land-based environment and are important parts of almost every ecosystem.

Like all organisms, plants evolve to take best advantage of their habitat. They do this in a variety of ways, each of which reflects the widely-differing conditions in which they live. In some cases, it's a simple change of shape or size. But in other, more extreme situations, plants have had to develop in very unusual ways.

Carnivorous plants use different types of traps to catch prey, including snap traps, flypaper traps, pitfall traps, and suction traps.



Plants adapt to environments in many ways. These adaptations make certain plants unique and contribute to the variety of species in the plant kingdom. Many plants grow in areas where the soil does not provide enough nutrients. This forces them to find other ways of getting food. One very strange solution to this problem has led to carnivorous plants – plants that eat animals! Interestingly, different types of these plants use different methods to catch their prey. Examples of carnivorous plants include Venus flytraps, pitcher plants, sundews, butterworts and bladderworts.



There are 400 known species of carnivorous plants.

Unusual Adaptations



Word Bank

(pp. 4-5)

kingdom (n) = the classification of a type of living thing, e.g.: plant, animal

massive (adj) = huge

organism (n) = a living thing

include (v) = to have as part

shrub (n) = bush

seaweed (n) = plants that live in the sea

soil (n) = earth

create (v) = to make

environment (n) = natural surroundings

important (adj) = significant

ecosystem (n) = the system of exchanges between living things and their environments

evolve (v) = to develop in a natural way

take advantage of sth/sb (phr) = to benefit; to profit from

habitat (n) = the place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows

in a variety of ways (phr) = in different manners

reflect (v) = to show

condition (n) = circumstance

shape (n) = the form of sth

size (n) = how large or small sth is

situation (n) = position

develop (v) = to grow through a process

snap (n) = action of sth closing quickly and with force

trap (n) = a mechanism that catches sth and holds it in place

flypaper (n) = a sticky piece of paper used to catch flies

pitfall (n) = a trap that causes prey to fall into a hole

suction (n) = the act or process of sucking sth

adapt (v) = to change according to environment

adaptation (n) = adjustment to environment

unique (adj) = the only one

contribute (v) = to give

species (n) = a type of living thing

provide (v) = to give; to supply

nutrients (n) = parts in any food necessary to live and grow

force (v) = to make sth happen

strange (adj) = unusual

lead to (phr v) = to cause to happen

carnivorous (adj) = meat-eating

interestingly (adv) = in a way that captures sb's attention

different (adj) = not similar

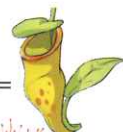
method (n) = a way of doing sth

prey (n) = an animal taken by a predator as food

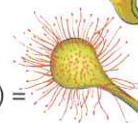
venus flytrap (n) =



pitcher plant (n) =



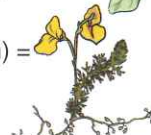
sundew (n) =



butterwort (n) =



bladderwort (n) =



Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Decide if the following sentences are *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 Plants create energy from sunlight.
- 2 The plant kingdom includes soil and nutrients.
- 3 Adaptations of the plants over time include changes in size and shape.
- 4 Some plants can grow in nutrient-poor soil.
- 5 All plants are carnivorous.

b) Listen, read, and check if your answers were correct.



While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and choose the best answers from A, B, C, or D.

- 1 Plants can make energy from
 - A other organisms.
 - B different kinds of soil.
 - C light from the sun.
 - D different ecosystems.
- 2 Trees, flowers, vegetables and seaweeds
 - A are all massive.
 - B are part of the plant kingdom.
 - C always grow in soil.
 - D are all important parts of every ecosystem.
- 3 Plants eat animals because
 - A they are unusual.
 - B they grow in different areas.
 - C the energy from the sun isn't enough.
 - D the soil is poor in nutrients.
- 4 Carnivorous plants catch their prey by using
 - A energy from the sun.
 - B different types of traps.
 - C a type of pitcher.
 - D a type of butterwort.

3 Complete the sentences using the correct form of the words in brackets.

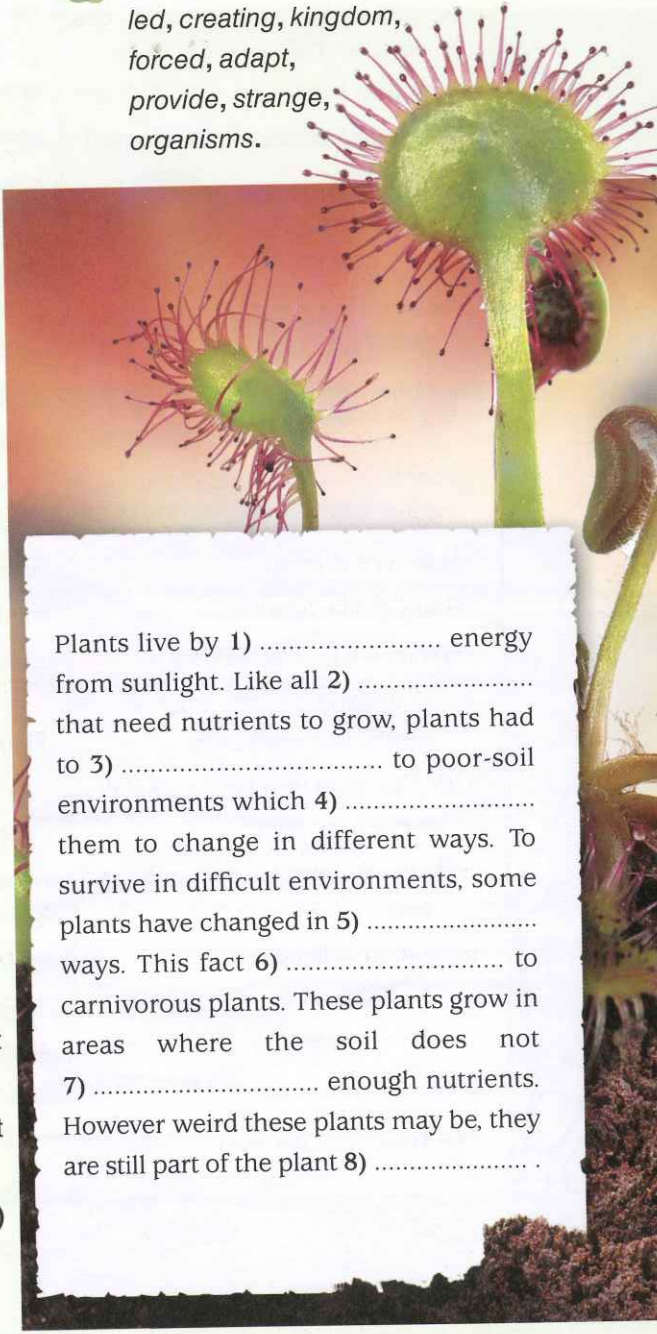
- 1 Most of the carnivorous plants have developed ways to adapt to their environment. (INTEREST)
- 2 The of carnivorous plants does not have a lot of nutrients in the soil. (HABIT)
- 3 Most carnivorous plants have a form to that of other plants. (DIFFER)
- 4 Carnivorous plants have a unique (ADAPT)

4 SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Choose the best word in bold to complete each sentence.

- 1 Plants adapt to extreme situations by **evolving/ growing**.
- 2 Plants are an important part of every **species/ecosystem**.
- 3 Poor soil leads to plants **developing/including** changes to their bodies.
- 4 Carnivorous plants catch prey using different **changes/methods**.
- 5 Plants can get **energy/nutrients** from the soil.

After-Reading activities

5 Complete the paragraph. Use:
led, creating, kingdom,
forced, adapt,
provide, strange,
organisms.



Plants live by 1) energy from sunlight. Like all 2) that need nutrients to grow, plants had to 3) to poor-soil environments which 4) them to change in different ways. To survive in difficult environments, some plants have changed in 5) ways. This fact 6) to carnivorous plants. These plants grow in areas where the soil does not 7) enough nutrients. However weird these plants may be, they are still part of the plant 8)

6 **Think!** Find of an alternative title for the chapter.