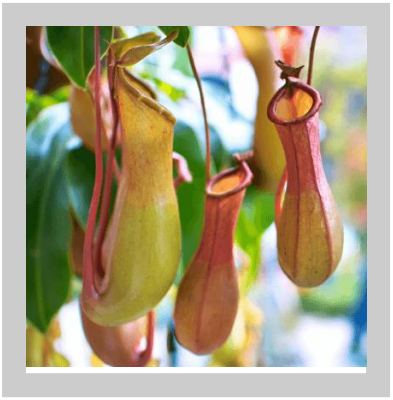
Name _____

Date _____

The Carnivorous Plant Exhibit



Welcome to the carnivorous plant exhibit at the National Museum for Plants and Wildlife. For the next three months, the museum will display two popular species of carnivorous plants: the Venus Flytrap and the Asian Pitcher Plant.
Carnivorous plants are predatory green plants that capture and eat other animals. These plants attract, catch, digest, and process the nutrients from insects all on their own.

They are able to do this, because the leaves of these plants have special colors and nectar that can attract and trap insects. On Saturdays at 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm, a carnivorous plant expert will lecture about carnivorous plants and demonstrate this captivating feeding process in the promenade outside of the exhibit. You won't be able to keep your eyes off of this extremely interesting display!

Venus Flytrap

The Venus Flytrap is probably the most familiar species of carnivorous plant. They typically grow in the southeast part of the United States, because they prosper in warm, moist climates. Venus Flytraps are mostly known for consuming flies, but they will eat any insect that happens to become entangled in their trap. Because of their brightly colored insides, insects are easily attracted to Venus Flytraps. Once it lands, an insect will become stuck to the sticky pad. The flytrap will slowly begin to close and finally snap shut before it consumes the insect. It may take several days for an insect to be digested. If a Venus Flytrap is closed, you can tell it must have recently dined.

Asian Pitcher Plant

The Asian Pitcher Plant is named for its leaves, which resemble a beautiful pitcher. These plants typically grow near ponds. They are so attractive to insects because their pitcher-shaped leaves are multi-colored and mimic flowers. These leaves also produce tantalizing nectar. A curious insect will approach, take a sip, and then fall into the long narrow shoot to its death. The shoot is lined with sticky hairs that aid in capturing and digestion. Usually, they only consume small insects; but once in a while a small lizard or frog may stumble into the shoot and the Asian Pitcher Plant does not discriminate. If it fits, it feeds!

1) This passage would most likely be found in a(n)

A. science fiction story

B. gardening magazine article

C. science fair invitation

D. museum exhibit booklet

2) According to the passage, carnivorous plants are

A. known for mostly consuming flies, but will eat other insects

B. predatory green plants that capture and eat other animals

C. so attractive because of their beautifully shaped leaves

D. plants that are consumed by carnivorous animals in the wild

3) Based on information in paragraph 1, it can be understood that **captivating** belongs to which word group?

A. capturing, catching, ensnaring

B. modeling, indicating, displaying

C. fascinating, enthralling, interesting

D. shocking, amazing, inspiring

4) Using the information in paragraph 2 as a guide, we can understand that the southeastern region of the United States is

A. cold and wet

B. warm and moist

C. hot and dry

D. cool and humid

5) Which of the following statements most accurately describes the difference between how the Venus Flytrap and the Asian Pitcher Plant consume insects?

A. The Venus Flytrap only consumes flies, while the Asian Pitcher Plant only consumes lizards and frogs.

B. The Venus Flytrap lures insects with its beautiful leaves, while the Asian Pitcher Plant uses a sweet nectar.

C. The Venus Flytrap consumes insects in the United States, while Asia is the home to the Asian Pitcher Plant.

D. The Venus Flytrap closes on insects, while insects fall into the Asian Pitcher Plant.

6) According to the passage, Asian Pitcher Plants are attractive to insects because

A. their pitcher-shaped leaves are multi-colored and mimic flowers

B. they produce an enticing nectar that lures insects into its leaves

C. they have sticky pads that are comfortable for sitting upon

D. insects enjoy eating their leaves

7) At the end of the paragraph 3, the author writes, “If it fits, it feeds!” From this, we can conclude that the Asian Pitcher Plant

A. is very large and often will not fit near a pond

B. appears very beautiful and shapely to its prey

C. only feeds on animals that come close enough

D. will consume anything that fits inside its shoot

8) Which of the following traits apply to BOTH the Venus Flytrap and the Asian Pitcher Plant?

I. sticky parts that cling
II. will consume any insect that it captures
III. will consume anything that fits inside it

A. I only

B. I and II only

C. II and III only

D. I, II, and III

9) Using information from the passage, compare and contrast the Venus Flytrap and the Asian Pitcher Plant.

Answers and Explanations

1) D
Core Standard: Integration of Knowledge

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Welcome to the carnivorous plant exhibit at the National Museum for Plants and Wildlife.” This lets us know that this passage is associated with an exhibit at a museum. Later in paragraph 1, the author writes, “On Saturdays at 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm, a carnivorous plant expert will lecture about carnivorous plants and demonstrate this captivating feeding process in the promenade outside of the exhibit.” This reinforces the idea that this passage would accompany an exhibit. Also, a museum exhibit booklet would give information about upcoming lectures, so we can tell that this passage would most likely be found in a museum exhibit booklet. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

A science fiction story contains characters, a setting, and a plot. This passage does not have characters, a setting, or a plot. Instead, it provides information about a museum exhibit. This lets us know that this passage would not most likely be found in a science fiction story, so **(A)** is incorrect.

A gardening magazine article would most likely contain information about gardening or plants found in a garden. Articles found in a gardening magazine would also need to be of interest to a wide ranging audience, since the magazine needs to sell many copies to remain profitable. Because carnivorous plants are not likely to be found in the typical garden, and because this passage gives information specific to a museum exhibit, we can tell that it would not most likely be found in a gardening magazine article. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

A science fair invitation would invite people to a science fair. Instead, this passage invites people to lectures about a museum exhibit. This lets us know that this passage would not most likely be found in a science fair invitation, so **(C)** is incorrect.

2) B
Core Standard: Key Ideas and Details

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Carnivorous plants are predatory green plants that capture and eat other animals.” This lets us know that carnivorous plants are predatory green plants that capture and eat other animals. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) C
Core Standard: Craft and Structure

captivate (*verb*): attract and hold the attention or interest of.

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “On Saturdays at 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm, a carnivorous plant expert will lecture about carnivorous plants and demonstrate this captivating feeding process in the promenade outside of the exhibit.” We can use context clues—hints from known words or phrases around the unknown word or phrase—to help us figure out what captivate most nearly means. Immediately after this selection, the author writes, “You won’t be able to keep your eyes off of this extremely interesting display!” This lets us know that something that captivates must attract or hold the attention and interest of someone. The words *fascinating*, *enthralling*, and *interesting* all describe things that attract or hold interest. This lets us know that the word captivate belongs to the word group containing fascinating, enthralling, and interesting, so **(C)** is correct.

Using the above information, we can tell that we are looking for the word group that contains words that mean something like attract or hold the interest of. *Capturing*, *catching*, and *ensnaring* all relate to literally entangling something so that it is no longer free to move. These words do not mean the same thing as to attract or hold the interest of. This lets us know that captivate does not belong to the word group containing capturing, catching, and ensnaring. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect.

Using the above information, we can tell that we are looking for the word group that contains words that mean something like attract or hold the interest of. *Modeling*, *indicating*, and *displaying* all have to do with setting an example, or showing someone something. These words do not mean the same thing as to attract or hold the interest of. This lets us know that captivate does not belong to the word group containing modeling, indicating, and displaying, so **(B)** is incorrect.

Using the above information, we can tell that we are looking for the word group that contains words that mean something like attract or hold the interest of. *Shocking*, *amazing*, and *inspiring* all have to do with surprising someone quickly, not attracting or holding interest, which usually occurs over a longer period of time. This means that captivate does not belong to word group containing shocking, amazing, and inspiring. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

4) B
Core Standard: Integration of Knowledge

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “[Venus Flytraps] typically grow in the southeast part of the United States, because they prosper in warm, moist climates.” Since Venus Flytraps grow well in warm, moist climates, and they are typically found in the southeast part of the United States, we can tell that the southeastern region of the United States is warm and moist. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) D
Core Standard: Integration of Knowledge

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “The flytrap will slowly begin to close and finally snap shut before it consumes the insect.” This lets us know that the Venus Flytrap closes on insects. With regard to the Asian Pitcher Plant, in paragraph 3, the author writes, “A curious insect will approach, take a sip, and then fall into the long narrow shoot to its death.” This lets us know that insects fall into the Asian

Pitcher Plant. Using this information, we can tell that the statement—The Venus Flytrap closes on insects, while insects fall into the Asian Pitcher Plant—most accurately describes the difference between how the two plants consume insects, so **(D)** is correct.

In paragraph 3, the author writes, “A curious insect will approach [the Asian Pitcher Plant], take a sip, and then fall into the long narrow shoot to its death.” This lets us know that the Asian Pitcher Plant does not only consume lizards and frogs, since it also consumes insects. Using this information we can tell that this statement does not accurately describe the difference between how the Venus Flytrap and the Asian Pitcher Plant consume insects. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Because of their brightly colored insides, insects are easily attracted to Venus Flytraps.” This lets us know that the Venus Flytrap does not lure insects with its beautiful leaves. Even though the Asian Pitcher Plant lures insects with a sweet nectar, this statement does not accurate describe the difference between how the Venus Flytrap and the Asian Pitcher Plant consume insects, because it incorrectly describes the Venus Flytrap’s method. This lets us know that **(B)** is incorrect.

The statement—The Venus Flytrap consumes insects in the United States, while Asia is the home to the Asian Pitcher Plant.—describes where these two types of plants consume insects. The question asks us to describe the difference between how the Venus Flytrap and the Asian Pitcher Plant consume insects. Because the statement describes the wrong thing, we can tell that it does not accurately describe the difference between how the Venus Flytrap and the Asian Pitcher Plant consume insects. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

6) A
Core Standard: Key Ideas and Details

In paragraph 3, the author writes, “[Asian Pitcher Plants] are so attractive to insects because their pitcher-shaped leaves are multi-colored and mimic flowers.” This lets us know that Asian Pitcher Plants are attractive to insects because their pitcher-shaped leaves are multi-colored and mimic flowers. This means **(A)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

7) D
Core Standard: Integration of Knowledge

At the end of paragraph 3, the author writes, "…once in a while a small lizard or frog may stumble into the shoot and the Asian Pitcher Plant does not discriminate. If it fits, it feeds!" This lets us know that the author writes "if it fits, it feeds!" in order to emphasize the fact that the Asian Pitcher Plant will even eat things other than insects—like a small lizard, or a frog—that might fit into its shoot.
From this, we can conclude that the Asian Pitcher Plant will consume anything that fits inside its shoot. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, or **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

8) B
Core Standard: Key Ideas and Details

In paragraph 2, the author writes that insects "will become stuck to the sticky pad" of the Venus Flytrap. This lets us know that Venus Flytraps have sticky parts that cling. In paragraph 3, the author writes, "The shoot [of the Asian Pitcher Plant] is lined with sticky hairs that aid in capturing and digestion." This lets us know that Asian Pitcher Plants also have sticky parts that cling. Because both Venus Flytraps and Asian Pitcher Plants have sticky parts that cling, **option (I)** is supported.

In paragraph 2, the author writes that Venus Flytraps "will eat any insect that happens to become entangled in their trap." This shows that the Venus Flytrap will consume any insect that it captures. In paragraph 3, the author writes, "…the Asian Pitcher Plant does not discriminate. If it fits, it feeds!" From this, we can conclude that the Asian Pitcher Plant will consume any insect that it captures inside its shoot. Because both plants will consume any insect that they capture, this supports **option (II)**.

In paragraph 3, the author writes, "the Asian Pitcher Plant does not discriminate. If it fits, it feeds!" The author writes this after mentioning that sometimes a small lizard or frog will fit inside. This means that the Asian Pitcher Plant will consume anything that fits inside it. Although the author mentions that the Venus Flytrap will eat any insect that "happens to become entangled in its trap," the author does not say that the Venus Flytrap will consume anything that fits inside it. Using this information we can tell that consuming anything that fits inside it is not a trait of both the Venus Flytrap and the Asian Pitcher Plant. This eliminates **option (III)**.

Therefore **(B)** is correct.