

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

Carnivorous Plants

An unsuspecting fly lands on a shiny, green leaf. In less than a second, the two parts of the leaf snap together. They get tighter. It's dinnertime for this Venus's-flytrap. 16
30
31

The Venus's-flytrap is perhaps the best known of all carnivorous, or meat-eating, plants. There are over six hundred different carnivorous species worldwide. The Venus's-flytrap and several others can be found in the southeastern part of the United States. 44
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69
71

These amazing plants mainly eat insects, though some have been known to capture larger animals, such as small frogs. They live in swamps and other areas with poor soil. They get some food from the air and soil, as other plants do. The insects add nutrients to the plants' diet. 83
97
114
121

Carnivorous plants come in different sizes, from tiny water plants to vines many yards long. Like other plants, many meat-eaters attract insects with bright colors or sweet smells. They also have different ways of trapping their food. Some plants have sticky parts. The insect lands on them and cannot get away. Other plants have slippery parts. The insect lands, slides down into the plant, and is stuck there. Finally, some plants have suction. When the insect comes near, it is vacuumed up. One underwater variety has the fastest trap of all. It can vacuum its prey in only a fraction of a second. 134
146
160
174
189
203
220
224

It is good to know that these carnivores are no danger to large animals. It seems like these carnivorous plants know exactly what they want for dinner. 240
251

Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 What is the author’s main purpose in this selection?

- A** to entertain the reader with an amazing horror story
- B** to convince the reader that carnivorous plants won’t hurt them
- C** to explain the importance of saving carnivorous plants
- D** to inform the reader about an interesting kind of plant

2 Why does the author use the phrase “carnivorous, or meat-eating, plants”?

- F** to tell the reader what the word *carnivorous* means
- G** to point out the difference between meat and insects
- H** to make sure that the reader uses a dictionary
- J** to make the plants sound dangerous

3 What is the author’s purpose in the first sentence?

- A** to warn the reader about a danger
- B** to catch the reader’s attention
- C** to describe the diet of a plant
- D** to show how a plant attracts insects

4 What usually happens after a carnivorous plant attracts an insect? Use sequence words in your answer.

First, the plant captures the insect. Then the plant eats the insect.

5 What are two questions that the author answers in this selection?

Answers may vary. Possible responses: Where are carnivorous plants found? How do carnivorous plants trap insects?