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**Level 6 – 17th May, 2020**

## How Venus fly traps developed a liking for meat

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

New research sheds light on how carnivorous plants like the Venus fly trap developed a taste for meat. A study from the University of Würzburg in Germany suggests that subtle changes in the genetics of plants led to some becoming carnivorous. These changes led to the development of some of nature's most ingenious species. Carnivorous plants adapted novel and devious ways to entice and snare insects. The Venus fly trap uses clam-like leaves that snap shut when an insect crawls between them. The pitcher plant is shaped like a vase - insects go inside and then cannot crawl up the slippery insides. The sundew plant has long sticky leaves, which roll up after insects get stuck on them.

Researchers in a variety of fields collaborated in the study. They included computational evolutionary biologist Jörg Schultz and plant biologist Rainer Hedrich. They sequenced and compared the genomes of carnivorous plants to non-carnivorous plants. They discovered that meat-eating plants developed from the same common ancestor about 60 million years ago. Dr Schultz said: "We were able to trace the origin of carnivorous genes back to a duplication event that occurred many millions of years ago in the genome of the last common ancestor of the carnivorous species." Dr Rainer\* added: "The function of these genes is related to the ability to sense and digest animals and to utilise their nutrients."

\* CORRECTION: This should be Dr Hedrich (Apologies Dr Hedrich)

Sources: <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/05/how-venus-flytraps-evolved-their-taste-meat>  
[https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2020-05/uow-tcp051420.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-05/uow-tcp051420.php)  
<https://www.ibtimes.com/researchers-find-how-carnivorous-plants-evolved-their-meat-eating-lifestyle-2976644>

# WARM-UPS

**1. CARNIVOROUS PLANTS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about carnivorous plants. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

research / shed / light / taste / meat / genetics / carnivorous / plants / leaves / insect fields / collaborated / biologist / ancestor / origin / genes / species / function / sense

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. VENUS FLY TRAPS:** Students A **strongly** believe Venus fly traps are the best houseplants; Students B **strongly** believe they aren't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. TASTE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "taste". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**5. PLANTS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best plants at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Venus fly traps
- roses
- cacti
- palm tree
- bamboo
- sunflowers
- orchids
- hemp

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. shed light on | a. New or unusual in an interesting way.  |
| 2. subtle        | b. Move slowly along a surface like an insect.                                      |
| 3. genetics      | c. Help to explain something by providing further information about it.             |
| 4. ingenious     | d. So delicate or precise as to be difficult to analyze or describe.                |
| 5. novel         | e. Clever, original, and inventive.   |
| 6. entice        | f. Attract or tempt by offering pleasure or advantage.                              |
| 7. crawl         | g. The study of the characteristics that pass down from one generation to the next. |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 8. collaborated | h. Find or describe the origin or development of something.                     |
| 9. evolutionary | i. An early type of animal or plant from which others have evolved.             |
| 10. sequenced   | j. The complete set of genes or genetic material present in a cell or organism. |
| 11. genome      | k. Worked together on an activity, especially to produce or create something.   |
| 12. ancestor    | l. Break down food in the body so it can be used for bodily functions.          |
| 13. trace       | m. Relating to the gradual development of something.                            |
| 14. digest      | n. Found out the order of amino acid in a protein, DNA, etc.                    |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. There is new research on how light affects Venus fly traps. **T / F**
- b. Plants became carnivorous because of changes in their genes. **T / F**
- c. The Venus fly trap catches insects in between its leaves. **T / F**
- d. The sundew plant uses the sun to burn insects. **T / F**
- e. Researchers gathered in fields to collaborate. **T / F**
- f. Scientists compared carnivorous with non-carnivorous plants. **T / F**
- g. The first carnivorous plants emerged 60 million years ago. **T / F**
- h. Genes help the carnivorous plants to digest animals. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>sheds</b>        | a. predecessor   |
| 2. <b>taste</b>        | b. inventive     |
| 3. <b>ingenious</b>    | c. absorb        |
| 4. <b>devious</b>      | d. liking        |
| 5. <b>stuck</b>        | e. joined forces |
| 6. <b>collaborated</b> | f. cunning       |
| 7. <b>ancestor</b>     | g. purpose       |
| 8. <b>origin</b>       | h. casts         |
| 9. <b>function</b>     | i. birth         |
| 10. <b>digest</b>      | j. glued         |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. New research sheds             | a. get stuck on them     |
| 2. developed a                    | b. millions of years ago |
| 3. subtle changes                 | c. taste for meat        |
| 4. some of nature's most          | d. common ancestor       |
| 5. roll up after insects          | e. ingenious species     |
| 6. Researchers in a variety of    | f. the origin            |
| 7. plants developed from the same | g. light on how          |
| 8. We were able to trace          | h. digest animals        |
| 9. occurred many                  | i. in the genetics       |
| 10. the ability to sense and      | j. fields collaborated   |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

New research (1) \_\_\_\_\_ light on how carnivorous plants like the Venus fly trap developed a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for meat. A study from the University of Würzburg in Germany suggests that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ changes in the genetics of plants led to some becoming carnivorous. These changes led to the development of some of nature's most ingenious (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Carnivorous plants adapted novel and devious ways to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and snare insects. The Venus fly trap uses clam-like leaves that snap shut when an insect (6) \_\_\_\_\_ between them. The pitcher plant is shaped like a vase - insects go inside and then cannot crawl up the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ insides. The sundew plant has long sticky leaves, which (8) \_\_\_\_\_ up after insects get stuck on them.

*slippery*  
*taste*  
*species*  
*crawls*  
*sheds*  
*roll*  
*subtle*  
*entice*

Researchers in a variety of fields (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in the study. They included computational evolutionary biologist Jörg Schultz and plant biologist Rainer Hedrich. They (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and compared the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of carnivorous plants to non-carnivorous plants. They discovered that meat-eating plants developed from the same common (12) \_\_\_\_\_ about 60 million years ago. Dr Schultz said: "We were able to (13) \_\_\_\_\_ the origin of carnivorous genes back to a duplication (14) \_\_\_\_\_ that occurred many millions of years ago in the genome of the last common ancestor of the carnivorous species." Dr Rainer added: "The function of these (15) \_\_\_\_\_ is related to the ability to sense and digest animals and to utilise their (16) \_\_\_\_\_."

*ancestor*  
*sequenced*  
*genes*  
*collaborated*  
*nutrients*  
*trace*  
*genomes*  
*event*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

- 1) sheds light on how carnivorous plants like the Venus fly trap developed a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. tasty for meat
  - b. tasted for meat
  - c. taste for meat
  - d. tastes for meat
- 2) These changes led to the development of some of nature's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. mostly ingenious species
  - b. most ingenious specials
  - c. mostly ingenious speeches
  - d. most ingenious species
- 3) Carnivorous plants adapted novel and devious ways to \_\_\_\_\_ insects
  - a. entire sand snare
  - b. ant ice and snare
  - c. entice and snare
  - d. entice and snarl
- 4) shaped like a vase - insects go inside and then cannot crawl up \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the slip pairing insides
  - b. the slipper real insides
  - c. the slivery insides
  - d. the slippery insides
- 5) The sundew plant has long sticky leaves, which roll up after \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. insects get stuck
  - b. insects get stack
  - c. insects get stick
  - d. insects get stock
- 6) They included computational \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. evolutionary biologist
  - b. evolutionary biology
  - c. evolutionary bio logistic
  - d. evolutionary bio-logics
- 7) They sequenced and compared the genomes \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of carnivorous plants
  - b. of carnivorous plant
  - c. of carnivorous planted
  - d. of carnivorous planters
- 8) We were able to trace the origin of carnivorous genes back to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a duplicated event
  - b. a duplication event
  - c. a duplicates event
  - d. a duplicative event
- 9) that occurred many millions of years ago in the genome of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. last common ants aster
  - b. last common ants Easter
  - c. last common nan caster
  - d. last common ancestor
- 10) related to the ability to sense and digest animals and to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. utilise them nutrients
  - b. utilise their nutrients
  - c. utilise there nutrients
  - d. utilise they're nutrients

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

New research (1) \_\_\_\_\_ how carnivorous plants like the Venus fly trap developed (2) \_\_\_\_\_ meat. A study from the University of Würzburg in Germany suggests that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the genetics of plants led to some becoming carnivorous. These changes led to the development of some of nature's most ingenious species. Carnivorous plants adapted (4) \_\_\_\_\_ ways to entice and snare insects. The Venus fly trap uses clam-like leaves that (5) \_\_\_\_\_ an insect crawls between them. The pitcher plant is shaped like a vase - insects go inside and then cannot (6) \_\_\_\_\_ slippery insides. The sundew plant has long sticky leaves, which roll up after insects get stuck on them.

Researchers in a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ collaborated in the study. They included computational evolutionary biologist Jörg Schultz and plant biologist Rainer Hedrich. They sequenced and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of carnivorous plants to non-carnivorous plants. They discovered that meat-eating plants developed from the same (9) \_\_\_\_\_ 60 million years ago. Dr Schultz said: "We were able to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of carnivorous genes back to a duplication event that occurred many millions of years ago in the genome of (11) \_\_\_\_\_ ancestor of the carnivorous species." Dr Rainer added: "The function of these genes is related to the ability to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ animals and to utilise their nutrients."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

1. What did research shed on how carnivorous plants liked meat?
2. What kind of changes happened in the genetics of carnivorous plants?
3. What kind of species did the article say genetic changed created?
4. What kind of leaves did the article say Venus fly traps have?
5. What happens to the leaves of the sundew plant?
6. Who is Rainer Hedrich?
7. What did scientists compare the genomes of carnivorous plants to?
8. When did carnivorous plants develop?
9. What did scientists say they were able to trace?
10. What did a scientist say the plants can digest?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

- 1) What did research shed on how carnivorous plants liked meat?
  - a) pollen
  - b) light
  - c) water
  - d) enlightenment
- 2) What kind of changes happened in the genetics of carnivorous plants?
  - a) serious changes
  - b) interesting changes
  - c) bid changes
  - d) subtle changes
- 3) What kind of species did the article say genetic changed created?
  - a) special species
  - b) disingenuous species
  - c) ingenious species
  - d) genus species
- 4) What kind of leaves did the article say Venus fly traps have?
  - a) clam-like leaves
  - b) green leaves
  - c) dangerous leaves
  - d) edible leaves
- 5) What happens to the leaves of the sundew plant?
  - a) they die
  - b) they roll up
  - c) they get hot
  - d) they become moist
- 6) Who is Rainer Hedrich?
  - a) a plant biologist
  - b) a gardener
  - c) a botanist
  - d) a horticulturalist
- 7) What did scientists compare the genomes of carnivorous plants to?
  - a) humans
  - b) bamboo
  - c) non-carnivorous plants
  - d) moss
- 8) When did carnivorous plants develop?
  - a) about 60 million years ago
  - b) about 66 million years ago
  - c) about 660 million years ago
  - d) about 600 million years ago
- 9) What did scientists say they were able to trace?
  - a) new species
  - b) leaves
  - c) designs
  - d) the origin of carnivorous genes
- 10) What did a scientist say the plants can digest?
  - a) information
  - b) light
  - c) animals
  - d) water

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

## **Role A – Venus Fly Traps**

You think Venus fly traps are the best plants. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): cacti, bamboo or sunflowers.

## **Role B – Cacti**

You think cacti are the best plants. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Venus fly traps, bamboo or sunflowers.

## **Role C – Bamboo**

You think bamboo is the best plant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): cacti, Venus fly traps or sunflowers.

## **Role D – Sunflowers**

You think sunflowers are the best plants. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): cacti, bamboo or Venus fly traps.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'fly' and 'trap'.

fly	trap

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• light</li><li>• changes</li><li>• species</li><li>• snare</li><li>• vase</li><li>• stuck</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• fields</li><li>• compared</li><li>• 60</li><li>• back</li><li>• common</li><li>• digest</li></ul>
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# CARNIVOROUS PLANTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

Write five GOOD questions about carnivorous plants in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# CARNIVOROUS PLANTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'fly'?
3. What do you know about Venus fly traps?
4. What do you think of carnivorous plants?
5. Would you like carnivorous plants in your home?
6. What are your favourite plants?
7. What plants don't you like?
8. What is your favourite insect?
9. Would you like to have a job researching plants?
10. Would you touch the carnivorous plants?

*How Venus fly traps developed a liking for meat – 17th May, 2020*  
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# CARNIVOROUS PLANTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'trap'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think a computational evolutionary biologist does?
15. What is a genome?
16. Why is sequencing a genome useful?
17. What was life on Earth like 60 million years ago?
18. What do you know about your ancestors?
19. Do you think carnivorous plants are useful?
20. What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

New research (1) \_\_\_\_\_ light on how carnivorous plants like the Venus fly trap developed a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for meat. A study from the University of Würzburg in Germany suggests that subtle changes (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the genetics of plants led to some becoming carnivorous. These changes led to the development of some of nature's most (4) \_\_\_\_\_ species. Carnivorous plants adapted novel and devious ways to entice and snare insects. The Venus fly trap uses clam-like leaves that (5) \_\_\_\_\_ shut when an insect crawls between them. The pitcher plant is shaped like a vase - insects go inside and then cannot crawl up the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ insides. The sundew plant has long sticky leaves, which roll up after insects get stuck on them.

Researchers in a variety of (7) \_\_\_\_\_ collaborated in the study. They included computational evolutionary biologist Jörg Schultz and plant biologist Rainer Hedrich. They sequenced and compared the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of carnivorous plants to non-carnivorous plants. They discovered that meat-eating plants developed from the same common ancestor about 60 million years ago. Dr Schultz said: "We were able to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the origin of carnivorous genes back to a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ event that occurred many millions of years ago in the genome of the last (11) \_\_\_\_\_ ancestor of the carnivorous species." Dr Rainer added: "The function of these genes is related to the ability to sense and digest animals and to utilise their (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |              |                |                 |               |
|-----|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) caves    | (b) shacks     | (c) cabins      | (d) sheds     |
| 2.  | (a) taster   | (b) tasted     | (c) tasty       | (d) taste     |
| 3.  | (a) by       | (b) in         | (c) at          | (d) on        |
| 4.  | (a) pressure | (b) myriad     | (c) ingenious   | (d) spectacle |
| 5.  | (a) close    | (b) clip       | (c) snap        | (d) boot      |
| 6.  | (a) slippery | (b) properly   | (c) surly       | (d) surely    |
| 7.  | (a) lawns    | (b) fields     | (c) parks       | (d) patches   |
| 8.  | (a) genomes  | (b) gnomes     | (c) gnocchi     | (d) gnostic   |
| 9.  | (a) etch     | (b) trace      | (c) sketch      | (d) draw      |
| 10. | (a) multiply | (b) times      | (c) duplication | (d) addition  |
| 11. | (a) heath    | (b) dale       | (c) common      | (d) moor      |
| 12. | (a) sentient | (b) recipients | (c) ingredients | (d) nutrients |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. changes in the sctneieg of plants
2. led to some becoming oicrusnrova
3. some of nature's most nieouigsn species
4. adapted novel and evousid ways
5. ntecie and snare insects
6. the eriyplps insides

## Paragraph 2

7. cedaloabtlro in the study
8. nvtoaureyloi biologist
9. They quceensde and compared the genomes
10. the same common rsaentoc
11. sense and egitsd animals
12. utilise their iurnsnett

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) ancestor of the carnivorous species." Dr Rainer added: "The function of these genes is related
- ( ) non-carnivorous plants. They discovered that meat-eating plants developed from the same common
- ( ) them. The pitcher plant is shaped like a vase - insects go inside and then cannot crawl up the slippery
- ( ) of some of nature's most ingenious species. Carnivorous plants adapted novel and devious ways to entice and snare
- ( ) to a duplication event that occurred many millions of years ago in the genome of the last common
- ( ) insects. The Venus fly trap uses clam-like leaves that snap shut when an insect crawls between
- ( ) Researchers in a variety of fields collaborated in the study. They included computational evolutionary
- ( ) changes in the genetics of plants led to some becoming carnivorous. These changes led to the development
- ( ) insides. The sundew plant has long sticky leaves, which roll up after insects get stuck on them.
- ( **1** ) New research sheds light on how carnivorous plants like the Venus fly trap developed a taste
- ( ) for meat. A study from the University of Würzburg in Germany suggests that subtle
- ( ) to the ability to sense and digest animals and to utilise their nutrients."
- ( ) ancestor about 60 million years ago. Dr Schultz said: "We were able to trace the origin of carnivorous genes back
- ( ) biologist Jörg Schultz and plant biologist Rainer Hedrich. They sequenced and compared the genomes of carnivorous plants to

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

1. becoming to led plants some Genetics of carnivorous .
2. of some nature's most species . ingenious of Development
3. an them . crawls insect when Snap between shut
4. plant a pitcher like shaped vase . is The
5. insects after get them . up stuck on Roll
6. of fields collaborated . variety Researchers a in
7. carnivorous Sequenced of genomes and plants . compared the
8. the plants developed common same ancestor . from Meat-eating
9. related . function is of these The genes
10. The and sense ability to digest animals .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

New research *sheds / shards* light on how carnivorous plants like the Venus fly trap developed a *taste / tasty* for meat. A study from the University of Würzburg in Germany suggests that *stubble / subtle* changes in the genetics of plants led to some *become / becoming* carnivorous. These changes led to the development of some of nature's most *genus / ingenious* species. Carnivorous plants adapted *novella / novel* and devious ways to entice and snare insects. The Venus fly trap uses clam-like leaves that *snap / snip* shut when an insect crawls between *us / them*. The pitcher plant is shaped like a vase - insects go inside and then cannot *crawly / crawl* up the slippery insides. The sundew plant has long sticky leaves, which *roll / rail* up after insects get stuck on them.

Researchers in a *various / variety* of fields collaborated in the study. They *included / inclusive* computational evolutionary biologist Jörg Schultz and plant biologist Rainer Hedrich. They *sequential / sequenced* and compared the *genomes / gnomes* of carnivorous plants to non-carnivorous plants. They discovered that meat-eating plants developed from the same *commonly / common* ancestor about 60 million years ago. Dr Schultz said: "We were able to *trace / trade* the origin of carnivorous genes back to a *duplication / subtraction* event that occurred many millions of years ago in the genome of the last common *ancestral / ancestor* of the carnivorous species." Dr Rainer added: "The function of these genes is *related / belated* to the ability to sense and digest animals and to utilise their *nutritious / nutrients*."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

N\_w r\_s\_\_ r c h s h\_d s l\_g h t \_n h\_w c\_r n\_v\_r\_\_ s  
p l\_n t s l\_k\_ t h\_ V\_n\_s f l y t r\_p d\_v\_l\_p\_d \_ t\_s  
t\_ f\_r m\_\_ t. A s t\_d y f\_r m t h\_ U\_n\_v\_r\_s\_t y \_f  
W ü r z b\_r g \_n G\_r m\_n y s\_g g\_s t s t h\_t s\_b t\_l\_  
c h\_n g\_s \_n t h\_ g\_n\_t\_c s \_f p l\_n t s l\_d t\_ s\_m\_  
b\_c\_m\_n g c\_r n\_v\_r\_\_ s. T h\_s\_ c h\_n g\_s l\_d t\_ t  
h\_ d\_v\_l\_p m\_n t \_f s\_m\_ \_f n\_t\_r\_' s m\_s t \_n  
g\_n\_\_ s s\_p\_c\_\_ s. C\_r n\_v\_r\_\_ s p l\_n t s \_d\_p t\_d  
n\_v\_l \_n d d\_v\_\_ s w\_y s t\_ n\_t\_c\_ \_n d s\_n\_r\_ \_n  
s\_c\_t s. T h\_ V\_n\_s f l y t r\_p \_s\_s c\_l\_m - l\_k\_ l\_\_  
v\_s t h\_t s\_n\_p s h\_t w h\_n \_n \_n\_s\_c\_t c\_r\_w\_l s  
b\_t\_w\_\_ n t h\_m. T h\_ p\_t\_c h\_r p\_l\_n t \_s s h\_p\_d  
l\_k\_ \_ v\_s\_ - \_n\_s\_c\_t s g\_ \_n\_s\_d\_ \_n d t h\_n c\_n n\_t  
c\_r\_w\_l \_p t h\_ s\_l\_p\_p\_r\_y \_n\_s\_d\_s. T h\_ s\_n\_d\_w p  
l\_n t h\_s l\_n g s\_t\_c\_k\_y l\_\_ v\_s, w h\_c h r\_l\_l \_p  
\_f\_t\_r \_n\_s\_c\_t s g\_t s\_t\_c\_k \_n t h\_m.

R\_s\_\_ r c h\_r s \_n \_ v\_r\_\_ t y \_f f\_\_ l\_d s c\_l  
l\_b\_r\_t\_d \_n t h\_ s t\_d y. T h\_y \_n c\_l\_d\_d c\_m  
p\_t\_t\_\_ n\_l \_v\_l\_t\_\_ n\_r\_y b\_\_ l\_g\_s t J ö r g S c h\_l\_t  
z \_n d p\_l\_n t b\_\_ l\_g\_s t R\_\_ n\_r H\_d\_r\_c h. T h\_y  
s\_q\_\_ n\_c\_d \_n d c\_m\_p\_r\_d t h\_ g\_n\_m\_s \_f c\_r  
n\_v\_r\_\_ s p\_l\_n t s t\_ n\_n - c\_r n\_v\_r\_\_ s p\_l\_n t s.  
T h\_y d\_s\_c\_v\_r\_d t h\_t m\_\_ t -\_\_ t\_n g p\_l\_n t s  
d\_v\_l\_p\_d f\_r m t h\_ s\_m\_ c\_m m\_n \_n\_c\_s\_t\_r \_b\_\_ t  
60 m\_l\_l\_\_ n y\_\_ r\_s \_g\_. D\_r S c h\_l\_t z s\_\_ d: "  
W\_ w\_r\_ \_b\_l\_ t\_ t\_r\_c\_ t h\_ \_r\_g\_n \_f c\_r n\_v\_r\_\_ s  
g\_n\_s b\_c\_k t\_ \_ d\_p\_l\_c\_t\_\_ n \_v\_n\_t t h\_t \_c\_c\_r\_r\_d  
m\_n\_y m\_l\_l\_\_ n\_s \_f y\_\_ r\_s \_g\_ \_n t h\_ g\_n\_m\_ \_f  
t h\_ l\_s\_t c\_m m\_n \_n\_c\_s\_t\_r \_f t h\_ c\_r n\_v\_r\_\_ s s  
p\_c\_\_ s." D\_r R\_\_ n\_r \_d\_d\_d: "T h\_ f\_n\_c\_t\_\_ n \_f  
t h\_s\_ g\_n\_s \_s r\_l\_t\_d t\_ t h\_ \_b\_l\_t\_y t\_ s\_n\_s\_ \_n  
d d\_g\_s\_t \_n\_m\_l\_s \_n d t\_ \_t\_l\_s\_ t h\_\_ r\_n\_t\_r\_\_ n\_t  
s."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

new research sheds light on how carnivorous plants like the venus fly trap developed a taste for meat a study from the university of wrzburg in germany suggests that subtle changes in the genetics of plants led to some becoming carnivorous these changes led to the development of some of nature's most ingenious species carnivorous plants adapted novel and devious ways to entice and snare insects the venus fly trap uses clamlike leaves that snap shut when an insect crawls between them the pitcher plant is shaped like a vase insects go inside and then cannot crawl up the slippery sides the sundew plant has long sticky leaves which roll up after insects get stuck on them

researchers in a variety of fields collaborated in the study they included computational evolutionary biologist jrg schultz and plant biologist rainer hedrich they sequenced and compared the genomes of carnivorous plants to noncarnivorous plants they discovered that meat-eating plants developed from the same common ancestor about 60 million years ago dr schultz said we were able to trace the origin of carnivorous genes back to a duplication event that occurred many millions of years ago in the genome of the last common ancestor of the carnivorous species dr rainer added the function of these genes is related to the ability to sense and digest animals and to utilise their nutrients

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap.html>

New research sheds light on how carnivorous plants like the Venus flytrap developed a taste for meat. A study from the University of Würzburg in Germany suggests that subtle changes in the genetics of plants led to some becoming carnivorous. These changes led to the development of some of nature's most ingenious species. Carnivorous plants adapted novel and devious ways to entice and snare insects. The Venus flytrap uses clam-like leaves that snap shut when an insect crawls between them. The pitcher plant is shaped like a vase - insects go inside and then cannot crawl up the slippery insides. The sundew plant has long sticky leaves, which roll up after insects get stuck on them. Researchers in a variety of fields collaborated in the study. They included computational evolutionary biologist Jörg Schultz and plant biologist Rainer Hedrich. They sequenced and compared the genomes of carnivorous plants to non-carnivorous plants. They discovered that meat-eating plants developed from the same common ancestor about 60 million years ago. Dr Schultz said: "We were able to trace the origin of carnivorous genes back to a duplication event that occurred many millions of years ago in the genome of the last common ancestor of the carnivorous species." Dr Rainer added: "The function of these genes is related to the ability to sense and digest animals and to utilise their nutrients."







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. CARNIVOROUS PLANTS:** Make a poster about carnivorous plants. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. RESEARCH:** Write a magazine article about more research going into carnivorous plants. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on carnivorous plants. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your thoughts on carnivorous plants. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c    2. d    3. g    4. e    5. a    6. f    7. b  
8. k    9. m    10. n    11. j    12. i    13. h    14. l

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F    b T    c T    d F    e F    f T    g T    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. h	2. d	3. b	4. f	5. j
6. e	7. a	8. i	9. g	10. c

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Light
2. Subtle changes
3. Ingenious species
4. Clam-like leaves
5. They roll up
6. A plant biologist
7. Non-carnivorous plants
8. About 60 million years ago
9. The origin of carnivorous genes
10. Animals

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Genetics of plants led to some becoming carnivorous.
2. Development of some of nature's most ingenious species.
3. Snap shut when an insect crawls between them.
4. The pitcher plant is shaped like a vase.
5. Roll up after insects get stuck on them.
6. Researchers in a variety of fields collaborated.
7. Sequenced and compared the genomes of carnivorous plants.
8. Meat-eating plants developed from the same common ancestor.
9. The function of these genes is related.
10. The ability to sense and digest animals.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. a    2. c    3. b    4. d    5. a    6. d    7. b    8. d    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)