

Fact or opinion = 1

When reading, it is important to understand the difference between facts and opinions and to be able to work out which is which.

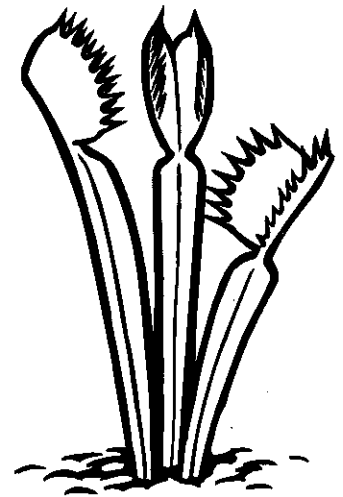
A fact is something that is true.

An opinion is something that someone believes is true.

Read the report.

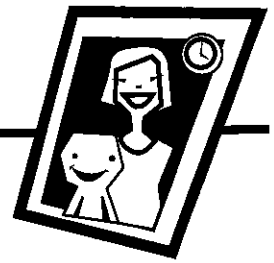
A plant that eats insects

1. Plants that eat insects are called carnivorous plants (meat eaters). Most plants only get nutrients (food) from the air and the soil. Carnivorous plants do this too, but they also like to eat juicy animals such as bugs, flies, caterpillars, crickets and ants. In this way, they get the extra nutrients they need because they grow in poor soils.
2. One of the most interesting carnivorous plants is the Venus flytrap. It is very interesting to read about how it eats. How can a Venus flytrap eat an insect when it doesn't have teeth?
3. The Venus flytrap has hinged leaves that open and shut. Some people say the leaves look like jaws when they are open, and others think they look like a clam shell. The ends of the leaves have short, stiff hairs on them. Inside the leaves is a sweet-smelling nectar insects like to drink. They are attracted by the nice smell. The plant waits patiently while the insect moves towards it. When it touches the hairs on the leaves, the leaves snap shut in less than a second, trapping the insect inside. It doesn't close all the way at first, allowing very small insects to escape.
4. Digestive juices dissolve the soft parts of the insect. About a week later, all that is left of the poor insect is the hard outer part. The leaves open and what is left blows away in the wind or washes away in the rain. A pair of flytrap leaves die after about four meals. If an object that isn't food lands in the trap, the plant doesn't like that. It will open up in about 12 hours and 'spit' it out!
5. Everyone is very interested to know just how the trap actually shuts. Scientists still don't know for sure, but they believe it is some kind of pressure on the fluids in the leaves that makes them close.
6. I think the Venus flytrap is one of the most fascinating plants. I'm glad there aren't giant ones that can eat humans!



Fact or opinion

Practice page



Use strategies like those on page 83 to practise working out fact and opinion.

(Clues are given to help you.)

1. Which sentence is an opinion?

- (a) The plant waits patiently while the insect moves towards it.
- (b) The ends of the leaves have short, stiff hairs.
- (c) The leaves snap shut in less than a second.
- (d) The Venus fly trap eats flies.

The best answer is .

2. Which sentence is a fact?

- (a) The Venus fly trap is interesting to read about.
- (b) The leaves look like jaws.
- (c) The nectar has a nice smell.
- (d) The trap closes when an insect touches the hairs.

The best answer is .

3. Write this sentence from the text as a fact.

All that is left of the poor insect is the hard outer part.

Fact: _____

4. Finish this sentence, giving your opinion of the Venus flytrap.

I think the way the Venus flytrap catches a meal is ...

Think!

An opinion is something that someone believes is true. Which sentence tells what someone thinks is true?

Think!

A fact is something that can be shown to be true. It is not just what someone thinks.

Think!

What part tells what the writer thinks is true? What part gives a fact?

Think!

Read the text again and tell what you think.

Fact or opinion

On your own



Think about the strategies you have been using and work out these answers.

1. Which sentence is an opinion?

- (a) A pair of Venus flytrap leaves die after about four meals.
- (b) The trap looks just like a clam shell.
- (c) The leaves have nectar inside.
- (d) The trap doesn't close all the way at first.

The best answer is .

2. (a) Write the name of the article.

(b) Do you think the title is a fact or an opinion? Explain your answer.

Fact

Opinion

3. Read the last two sentences in Paragraph 4. Write two facts about what happens if an object that isn't food lands in the trap.

4. Read Paragraph 5 and write the opinion in the paragraph.

Opinion: _____

5. Read Paragraph 3 and write what you think is the most interesting fact.

Fact: _____
