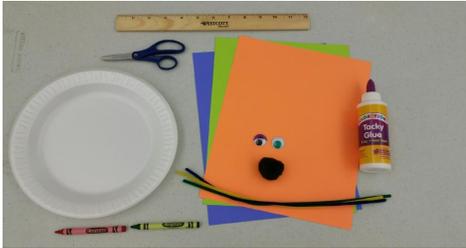


Paper Plate Venus Fly Trap

Can you create a Venus Fly Trap model to understand how it “eats”?

MATERIALS



- ❖ (2) 9-Inch Paper Plates
- ❖ Crayons—Red and Green Needed
- ❖ Card Stock
- ❖ Googly Eyes
- ❖ Black Pompoms
- ❖ Pipe Cleaner
- ❖ Glue
- ❖ Rulers
- ❖ Scissors

Do the Experiment!

1. Fold one of your paper plates in half so that it looks like a mouth. The bottom of the plate will be the top and bottom of the mouth on the outside and the part you would eat off would be the inside of the mouth. Color the outside of the mouth completely green with some other color spots here and there to make it look unique. Color the inside of the mouth green on the edge and red in the middle. Again you can add some different colors to make it look unique.
2. Fold a second plate in half and from the back edge cut out a crescent moon shape. This will go over the mouth so you can slip your hand inside and control the mouth. Color this plate any color you wish. You can either carefully glue this to the mouth or slip it over so you can remove it.
3. Measure a strip of cardstock 2 inches wide and 8.5 inches long. Cut out isosceles triangles along the strip. Try to make them the same size but if they are different it's ok. These are the Fly Trap's hairs. Glue these hairs along the edge of the inside of the mouth.
4. Now you need to make flies. The bigger the pom-pom the better. Glue to googly eyes to the pom-pom. Then take a pipe cleaner and cut it in half. Use these halves to create wings. Glue or attach the wings to the pom-pom. Place your fly into the puppet and chomp down!

DID YOU KNOW...

Venus Fly Traps are the best known carnivorous plants. Fly Traps eat trundling beetles, ants, spiders and grasshoppers—less than 5% of what a Fly Trap eats are flies. Fly Traps are one of a very small group of plants capable of doing rapid movements when their trigger hairs are stimulated. Scientists are still trying to understand what triggers the plant's movement, but they do know that the jaws of a flytrap will only shut if the trigger mechanism has been stimulated by similar movement at least twice and within twenty seconds of each other. This is to keep the flytrap from snapping every time the wind blows dust or dirt near the mouth. If an insect falls prey to the fly trap, a complex process will cause the “mouth” to seal and begin to act like a stomach. Digestion of the prey takes about ten days. Once digestion is complete, the flytrap will reopen its “mouth” and ready itself for more prey. Remember that Venus Fly Traps are plants and photosynthesize for energy so the prey they “eat” is to absorb vital nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous.



CHALLENGE

1. Form your own hypothesis on how a Fly Trap eats a fly? How is this different from how you eat?
2. How do most plants receive their energy?
3. Look up other carnivorous plants. How are they different from Fly Traps?

STEAM Challenge: The teeth you have created for your Fly Trap are all isosceles triangles. If you draw a line down the middle of the isosceles triangle from top to bottom you'll have two right triangles. To find the area of a right triangle multiply the base by the height and divide by two. Once you find the area of one right triangle multiply by two and you'll know the area of your isosceles triangle!