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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 4 – 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-4.html

Contents

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

THE READING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap-4.html

Research shows how carnivorous plants started to eat meat. A study in Germany shows that small changes in genes led to some plants becoming carnivorous. This led to the development of some of nature's most creative species. Carnivorous plants developed new and clever ways to trap insects. The Venus fly trap's leaves snap shut when an insect crawls in. The pitcher plant has insides that insects cannot walk up. The sundew plant has long, sticky leaves.

A computational evolutionary biologist and a plant biologist worked on the research. They compared the genes of carnivorous plants to non-carnivorous ones. The meat-eating plants developed from the same plants 60 million years ago. A researcher said: "We were able to trace the origin of carnivorous genes back to a duplication event...many millions of years ago." Another researcher said the genes give plants the ability to sense and digest animals.

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.**ibtimes.com**/researchers-find-how-carnivorous-plants-evolved-their-meat-eating-lifestyle-2976644

PHRASE MATCHING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap-4.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. small changes	a. creative species
2. led to some plants becoming	b. walk up
3. some of nature's most	c. shut
4. developed new and clever ways	d. sticky leaves
5. The Venus fly trap's leaves snap	e. carnivorous
6. when an insect	f. to trap insects
7. insides that insects cannot	g. crawls in
8. The sundew plant has long,	h. in genes

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. A computational evolutionary	a. on the research
2. a plant biologist worked	b. event
3. They compared the genes	c. animals
4. meat-eating plants	d. the origin
5. We were able to trace	e. of years ago
6. back to a duplication	f. developed
7. many millions	g. biologist
8. the ability to sense and digest	h. of carnivorous plants

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap-4.html

Research shows how carnivorous plants (1) _____ meat. A study in Germany shows that small changes (2) _____ to some plants becoming carnivorous. This led to (3) _____ some of nature's most creative species. Carnivorous plants developed new and clever ways (4) _____. The Venus fly trap's leaves snap shut when an insect crawls in. The pitcher plant (5) _____ insects cannot walk up. The sundew plant has (6) _____.

A computational evolutionary biologist and (7) _____ worked on the research. They (8) _____ of carnivorous plants to non-carnivorous ones. The meat-eating plants developed from the same plants 60 (9) _____. A researcher said: "We were able to trace (10) _____ carnivorous genes back to (11) _____...many millions of years ago." Another researcher said the genes give plants the ability to sense (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap-4.html

Researchshowshowcarnivorousplantsstartedtoeatmeat.AstudyinGermanyshowsthatsmallchangesingenesledtosomeplantsbecomingcarnivorous.Thisledtothedevelopmentofsomeofnature'smostcreativespecies.Carnivorousplantsdevelopednewandcleverwaystotrapinsects.TheVenusflytrap'sleavessnapshutwhenaninsectcrawlsin.Thepitcherplanthasinsidesthatinsectscannotwalkup.Thesundewplanthaslong,stickyleaves.Acomputationalevolutionarybiologistandaplantbiologistworkedontheresearch.Theycomparedthegenesofcarnivorousplantstonon-carnivorousones.Themeat-eatingplantsdevelopedfromthesameplants60millionyearsago.Aresearchersaid:"Wewereabletotracetheoriginofcarnivorousgenesbacktoaduplicationevent...manymillionsofyearsago."Anotherresearchersaidthegenesgiveplantstheabilitytosenseanddigestanimals.

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS SURVEY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap-4.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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200517-venus-fly-trap-4.html

Write about **carnivorous plants** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.