



## ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

### Atlanta Botanical Garden *Carnivorous Plants (3rd-5th)*

**Description:** Sticky, stinky, slippery, plants. Travel to Georgia's wetland bogs from your classroom to get an up close view of our native bug-eating plants in action. Discover why these plants have developed an unusual appetite and how they manage to trap and digest their prey.

**GSE Supported:** S3L1.b, S3L1.c.S3L2.a, S3L2.b, S4L1. a. b,

**Pre-Visit: Guiding Questions:** What do plants need to survive? What does it mean to be carnivorous? Why would some swamp plants need to digest animals?

**What to Read/Watch:** [What's Inside a Venus Flytrap?](#), [Virtual Learning Journey Regions of Georgia. The Wild World of Carnivorous Plants \(Video\) - Kenny Coogan](#)

**Post-Visit: Wrap up Questions:** What other plants have special ways to live in harsh environments like deserts, in the ocean, or in a rainforest?

**Activities:** [Visit the Okefenokee Virtually!](#)

**Pitcher Plant Diversity-** Carnivorous plants grow in several places around the world. Compare the following images of different pitcher plant species: (enlarged photos page 3)



Sarracenia (United States)



Nepenthes ( Southeast Asia)



Cephalotus (Australia)

How are they similar? How are they different? Do they look related? Even though these plants are not related, how are their adaptations similar? How are their adaptations different?

**Georgia Habitat Survey-** Pitcher plants grow in marsh, swamp, and bog habitats of our state. What are characteristics of these types of habitats? What other Georgia plants and animals might you find in this type of habitat? Draw a picture of one of these wetland habitats and include the wildlife adapted to live there. Take a walk outside and notice outdoor habitats that you live near. What plants and animals do you notice around you? Draw a picture of this outdoor habitat and the wildlife that you find. Compare the two habitats that you've drawn. What are the differences? Similarities? Would plants and animals that live in wetland areas be able to survive in the habitats around your home? Why or why not?

*Make a passive trap!*: Watch how [here](#). You'll need: Scissors, tape, empty soda or water bottle, apple cider vinegar, soap, water, sharpie. Instructions:

1. Clean out an empty water bottle or soda bottle using soap and water and let dry. Have an adult cut off the top of the bottle a couple of inches below the neck.
2. Make a solution of one part water to one part apple cider vinegar. Add a drop of dish soap.
3. Pour in the solution into the bottle. The bottle should be less than halfway full to drown the flying insects.
4. Invert the cut top of the bottle and attach it to the solution filled base with the neck facing down.
5. Tape the top and bottom of the bottle together to close off gaps and keep it secure.
6. Place your trap in the kitchen to attract and trap fruit flies or outside to attract other insects.
7. Check your trap everyday and count the number of insects caught in your trap. After about a week of use, throw away your trap and make another.



Sarracenia (United States)



Nepenthes (Southeast Asia)



Cephalotus (Australia)