

Level 3

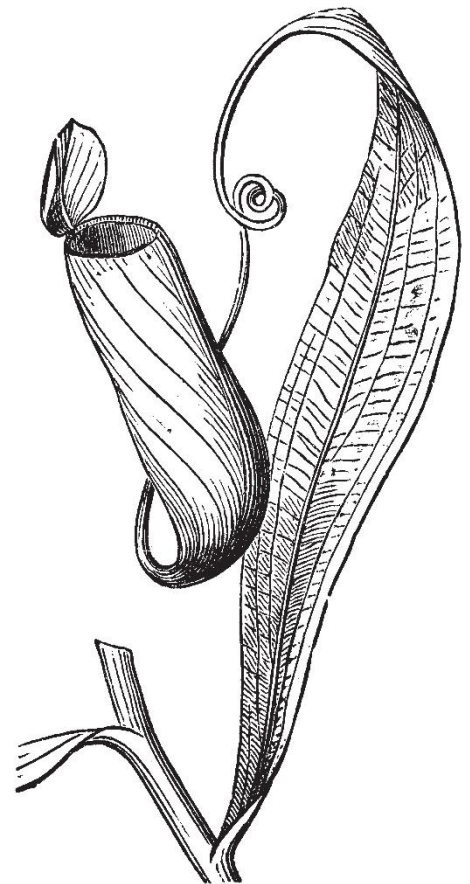
The Pitcher Plant

Have you ever heard of a plant that eats meat? There are not many, but the pitcher plant is one of them. The pitcher plant gets much of its energy by eating insects!

The pitcher plant has deeply folded leaves, creating the shape of a cup. The inside walls of the pitcher plant are very slippery. This causes insects that climb into the plant to slip down to the bottom. The opening of the plant has many downward-pointing hairs. This makes it very difficult for insects to climb out.

The lid of the pitcher plant is very important. The plant can open and close it when needed. At the bottom of the pitcher plant is a special juice. This juice helps to kill the insects that get trapped inside the pitcher plant. The pitcher plant closes its lid when it is raining to help protect this juice. If too much water mixes with this special juice, the juice won't be potent enough to kill the insect trapped inside.

Pitcher plants are native to North America. Because many people are so interested in these plants, they are now sold all around the world.



A Pitcher Plant

Task A: Comprehension

1. Why are the walls of the pitcher plant slippery?

2. How is the pitcher plant different to most other plants?

3. How do the downward-pointing hairs help the pitcher plant?

4. Which word from the text means 'strong'?

5. Why is there a special juice in the bottom of a pitcher plant?

6. What would happen if the pitcher plant didn't have a lid?

7. Why do you think so many people are interested in pitcher plants?

Task B: Language and Grammar

1. This text mentions a number of **cause and effect** relationships. Show 3 of them below.

Cause	➔	Effect
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Cause	➔	Effect
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Cause	➔	Effect
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2. Make a list of **9 nouns** from the text.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Task C: Challenge

Draw a diagram showing how pitcher plants works to trap its prey.