

This teacher guide was prepared by Betty Lou Askin, a retired elementary school principal from Toronto, Ontario.

Introduction: pre-reading activity

- Look at the Table of Contents. Ask the students to predict what the illustrations for pages 16 and 20 might suggest.

Scoops (pg. 2-3)

Power Walking

- What is the new invention?
- Describe what it looks like.
- How does it work?
- How would you use this invention?

Whale of a Tooth

- What is a narwhal?
- How long is its tooth?
- Describe the tooth.
- How does the tooth help the narwhal?

Harry Potter and the Empty Emergency Room

- How did Harry Potter help keep the emergency room empty?

Nestor's Dock (pg. 4-5)

- Why is the Stink Plant suited to Phil?
- What type of plant is suited to your personality?
- Draw a picture of your plant.

Why Are There Flowers? (pg. 6-13)

Vocabulary: species, gymnosperms, prehistoric, pollen, carpels, angiosperms, orchid, anther, stigma, pollinator

Before reading this article, ask the students to answer the questions.

- How many plants have flowers?
- Where do plants grow?

Din-Din for Dinos

- What types of plants did the plant-eating dinosaurs eat?
- Why did they have big stomachs?
- Why were meat-eating dinosaurs smaller?
- Why does the Apatosaurus not look happy?

Before Flowers

- Describe how pine seeds develop.
- What is a naked seed?

Petal Power

- When did flowers begin to grow?
- Why do carpels make flowers different from gymnosperms?
- Why did plants develop lovely color and nice smells?
- Why are petals like airport runway lights?
- How does the shape of the orchid help with pollination?

After Flowers

- Describe the job of each of the following:
the anther

the stigma

the carpel

the seed

From Carpel to Apple

- What is the purpose of the flower's fancy fruit?
- How do birds help to produce flowers?

How Flowers Changed the World

- Plants are very important. Give three reasons why.
- Why did plant-eating dinosaurs become smaller?
- Why should you thank a tulip?

When Plants Get Hungry (pg. 14-19)

Vocabulary: nutrition, carnivorous, chlorophyll, carbon dioxide, protein, nitrogen, unwitting, devious, prey, nectar, exoskeleton, digestive enzymes

- Name four things plants need in order to have food.
- How do plants in your garden get nitrogen?
- Where do carnivorous plants get nitrogen?

Trigger Traps

- Describe the Venus's-flytrap leaves.
- Why do the leaves have nectar?
- How do the trigger hairs work?
- Why must the trigger hairs be touched twice?
- Explain how the Venus's-flytrap digests food.

Pitfall Traps

- Why are pitcher plants called swimming pools of death?
- Explain why an insect cannot climb out of a pitcher plant.
- Describe how this plant eats the insects.

Sticky Traps

- How does the sundew attract insects?
- Besides as food, why does the sundew need insects?
- Why are carnivorous plants smart?

Plant IQ Test (pg. 20)

Enjoy the quiz.

Strangler in the Rainforest (pg. 21-23)

Why is a rainforest a good place for plants to grow?