Name: _____

Venus Flytrap

By Lill Pluta

It's not my fault I ate that fly.
I'm just a rhizome sprouting up in the spongy Carolina bog.

Not enough nitrogen to keep a long, tall, green thing like me growing...
so, I turned to a life of trickery.

My hinged traps grow in pairs,
green as clover outside, tragic vermilion inside.

Lured by nectar, the six-leggers light,
trig... two.. hairs and...

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The Carolinas' Carnivorous Plant

We think of meat-eating plants as something rare and exotic, growing in far away jungles. However, the Venus flytrap is native to the bogs of North and South Carolina in the United States. Collectors have endangered the plants. Now, the plants are grown in greenhouses. You can even order flytrap bulbs or rhizomes over the internet. This carnivorous plant from the Carolinas has become a hot topic for science fair projects.

Venus flytraps do not get enough nutrients from their native soil. You can think of the insects they eat as vitamin supplements. A Venus flytrap's leaves are shaped like clam shells. Insects are attracted by the bright red color, but tiny sensitive hairs inside the leaf lay a trap. When an unfortunate insect bends these hairs, the leaf snaps shut. Then the flytrap oozes fluids that dissolve the trapped insect, leaving the hard exoskeleton behind.

Name: _____

Venus Flytrap

By Lill Pluta

1. Tell whether each fact can be learned from reading the poem, the article, or both. On each line below, write the word *poem*, *article*, or *both*.

_____ Venus flytraps grow in the bogs of the Carolinas.

_____ Most green plants need nitrogen-rich soil to survive.

_____ When a Venus flytrap catches an insect, it releases fluids that

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3. Lin em says, "green as clover outside, tragic vermilion inside."
If you read the article carefully, you can discover the meaning of the word vermilion.
What is the definition of vermilion?

a. poisonous
b. deadly
c. red color
d. light green

4. Why do Venus flytraps need to eat insects?

_____

5. What is the purpose of the tiny hairs on a Venus flytrap's leaves?

_____

ANSWER KEY

Venus Flytrap

By Lill Pluta

1. Tell whether each fact can be learned from reading the poem, the article, or both. On each line below, write the word *poem*, *article*, or *b*

both — ...Carolinas.

poem — ...r green plants need nitroge... ...urvive.

art — When a Venus flytrap catches an ins... ...es fluids that ...

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3. Li... says, "green as clover outside, tragic ver...
If you rea... carefully, you can discover the meani... ...ord vermilion.
What is the ...f vermilion?

a. poison
b. deadly
c. red color
d. light green

4. Why do Venus flytraps need to eat insects?

They eat insects because the soils they grow in are so poor.

5. What is the purpose of the tiny hairs on a Venus flytrap's leaves?

The hairs are triggers that help the flytrap sense insects.