Name: _____

Stinky Parasite

By Lill Pluta

The Rafflesia is a parasite.
It doesn't sting; it doesn't bite.
Instead it smells like rotten meat
or dirty, grubby, sweaty feet.
It's putrid smell entices flies
into a bloom of giant size
that's wider than a traffic sign
and stuck onto a jungle vine.
The fl[illegible]t on its dinner plate;

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The Rafflesia: World's Stinkiest Flower

The Rafflesia is the world's largest flower, but you will not find it at your local florist shop. This bloom is too large and too smelly to be included in any bouquet. It grows to be about a yard wide, and it smells like rotting meat. The horrid odor helps this rare plant to survive. The stench draws flies, which in turn pollinate the Rafflesia. This is how the Rafflesia reproduces itself.

Rafflesias do not have stems, roots, or leaves. They do not produce chlorophyll. Rafflesias are parasites that attach themselves to vines. The vines serve as host plants which provide the Rafflesia with all its nutritional requirements.

Today the Rafflesia is in danger of becoming extinct. Loggers damage the flowers when they cut down trees. Tourists who come to observe the Rafflesia and other jungle wonders carelessly trample the blooms and crush the vines on which they grow. Many people are working together to make sure this extraordinary flower is still around for future generations to admire.

Name: _____

The Rafflesia

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*.

_____ A Rafflesia flower smells like rotten meat.

_____ Rafflesia plants are endangered.

_____ Rafflesias do not have roots or stems.

2. How [illegible] fflesia flower?

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_____

_____

_____

4. Name two reasons why the Rafflesia is in danger of becoming extinct.

_____

_____

_____

5. How does the terrible smell of the Rafflesia help it survive?

_____

_____

Name: _____

The Rafflesia

By Lill Pluta

Part 1: Match the vocabulary word on the left with the best definition on the right.
Use a dictionary if you need help.

1. _____ florist

2. _____ stench

a. to attract

b. moving pollen from one flower to another so the plant can reproduce

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6. _____ entice

f. terrible smell

Part 2: Fill in each of the blank lines below, using one of the vocabulary words above.

7. Grandma is trying to _____ us to visit her by baking cookies.

8. When Bill took off his shoes, a terrible _____ filled the room.

9. The bees will buzz in and out of the apple blossoms, which will _____ the apple tree.

10. In autumn, maple tree leaves lose their _____, change color, and fall to the ground.

ANSWER KEY

The Rafflesia

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*.

both A Rafflesia flower smells like rotten meat.

article Rafflesia plants are endangered.

article Rafflesias do not have roots or stems.

2. How [illegible] fflesia flower?

[illegible] a parasite. It [illegible] vines and uses them as host plants, which provide the Rafflesia with all its nutritional needs.

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4. Name two reasons why the Rafflesia is in danger of becoming extinct.

The Rafflesia is becoming extinct because loggers damage the flowers when they cut down trees. Also, tourists trample and crush the flowers when they visit the jungle.

5. How does the terrible smell of the Rafflesia help it survive?

The terrible smell attracts flies that help pollinate the flower.

ANSWER KEY

The Rafflesia

By Lill Pluta

Part 1: Match the vocabulary word on the left with the best definition on the right.
Use a dictionary if you need help.

1. **c.** florist

2. **f.** stench

a. to attract

b. moving pollen from one flower to another so the plant can reproduce

Preview
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6. **a.** entice

f. terrible smell

Part 2: Fill in each of the blank lines below, using one of the vocabulary words above.

7. Grandma is trying to **entice** us to visit her by baking cookies.

8. When Bill took off his shoes, a terrible **stench** filled the room.

9. The bees will buzz in and out of the apple blossoms, which will **pollinate** the apple tree.

10. In autumn, maple tree leaves lose their **chlorophyll**, change color, and fall to the ground.