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.
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 big is a Rafflesia flower?

   ______________________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________________

3. If a Rafflesia does not have roots, how does it get nutrients that help it survive?

   ______________________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________________

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?

   ______________________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________________
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
   a. to attract

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

3. _____ chlorophyll
   c. chemical that makes plants green

4. _____ parasite
   d. a living thing that lives on another living thing, using it for nourishment

5. _____ pollinate
   e. to attract

6. _____ entice
   f. terrible smell

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.
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 big is a Rafflesia flower?
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

3. If a Rafflesia does not have roots, how does it get nutrients that help it survive?
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

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?

The terrible smell attracts flies that help pollinate the flower.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>florist</td>
<td>person who works with and sells flowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stench</td>
<td>terrible smell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chlorophyll</td>
<td>chemical that makes plants green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parasite</td>
<td>a living thing that lives on another living thing, using it for nourishment</td>
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<tr>
<td>pollinate</td>
<td>moving pollen from one flower to another so the plant can reproduce</td>
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<tr>
<td>entice</td>
<td>to attract</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. The bees will buzz in and out of the apple blossoms, which will ______ pollinate _______ the apple tree.

2. Grandma is trying to ______________________ us to visit her by baking cookies.

3. When Bill took off his shoes, a terrible ______________________ filled the room.

4. The bees will buzz in and out of the apple blossoms, which will ______ pollinate _______ the apple tree.

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