

Yum Yum: Plants that Eat Meat

All plants get energy from the sun. But some plants can't get all the nutrients they need from sunshine, water, and soil. Some of these plants live in places with poor soil. Others have no roots to take in nutrients. So they eat tiny animals, frogs, and insects. These are plants that eat meat.

Snap Traps

A fly hovers around a plant. The plant has several short stalks. On top of each stalk are two lobes, or special rounded leaves. The lobes look like open mouths. The fly lands on the plant. The fly takes two steps and *snap!* The "mouth" closes on the fly. The Venus flytrap uses a snap trap to catch its prey. Munch munch.

Flypaper Traps

A small insect flies along. It sees what looks like water on a leaf. The insect wants a drink. It lands on the leaf. It tries to take a sip. The insect can't move! That's not water on the leaf. That's glue! The more the insect struggles, the more it gets stuck. The butterwort plant uses a flypaper trap to catch its prey. Yum yum.

Pitfall Traps

A butterfly flaps its pretty wings. It smells sweet nectar. Mmm. It flaps toward the tube-shaped plant that smells sweet. The

butterfly tries to land on the tube, but it slips. It falls in the tube. The butterfly can't crawl out. It can't fly out! It sinks into a small pool of liquid. The butterfly drowns. The pitcher plant uses a pitfall trap to catch its prey. Gulp Gulp.

Bladder Traps

A young tadpole swims in a pond. It flutters back and forth. It swims near a plant that looks like it has little beans with hairs. The tadpole brushes against one of the hairs.

Swish! The tadpole is swept into one of the "beans." But it is not a bean at all. It is a bladder. The bladderwort plant uses a bladder trap to catch its prey. The tadpole will be digested in 30 minutes. Then the bladderwort is ready to eat again.

Gurgle gurgle.

