



CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

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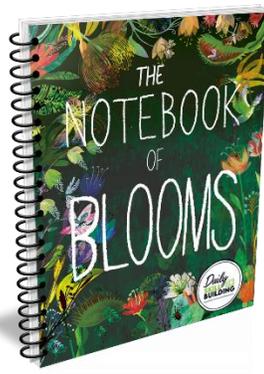
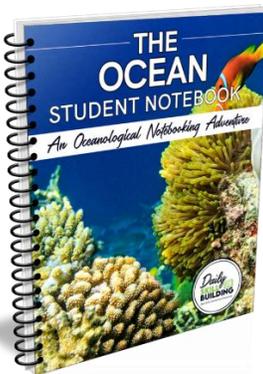
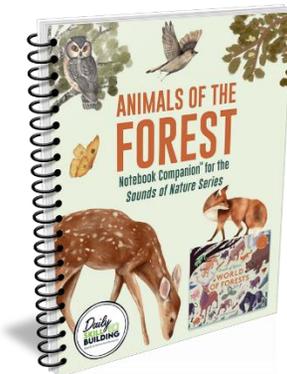
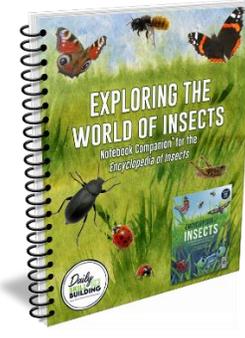
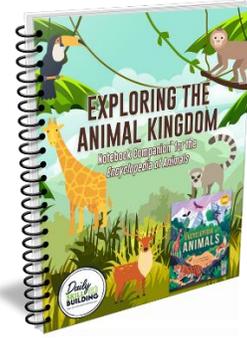
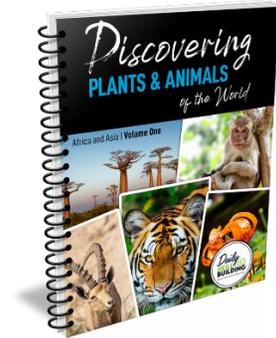
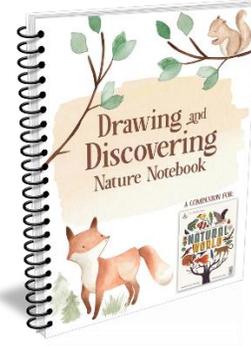
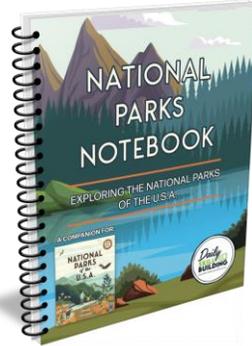
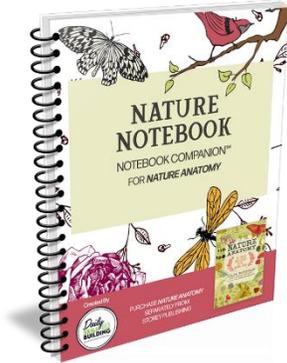
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Venus Flytrap

Dionaea Muscipula



Venus Flytrap



Water Wheel

Aldrovanda Vesiculosa



Water Wheel



Bladderwort

Utricularia



Bladderwort



Sundew

Drosera



Sundew



Butterwort

Pinguicula



Butterwort



Pitcher Plant

Cephalotus follicularis



Pitcher Plant

All About Venus Flytraps



The Venus Flytrap, *Dionaea muscipula*, is probably the favorite of all Carnivorous Plants. The traps consist of two clamshell-like halves, lined with many stout guard hairs and minute nectar glands.

In their resting position, the traps are held open at 45°-60°. A healthy plant may have from 3 to 12 or more traps. The interior surface of each leaf is filled with microscopic digestive glands, giving the leaf surface a fine bumpy appearance. Each inner leaf half usually has three small delicate trigger hairs in a triangular pattern. Most of the time, for the trap to close, any one of these trigger hairs must be touched twice, or any two hairs touched one after the other. The best closing response seems to happen when both stimuli occur within 40 seconds. Each trap will close about 10 times before it will no longer respond.

All About Bladderworts



Active traps can also be found in bladderworts. These plants are either aquatic or terrestrial. Aquatic varieties are often found as mats of plants floating in quiet, acid ponds, and bogs.

The terrestrial forms are found growing in damp, sandy, acid soils. The bulbous traps are generally quite small, less than 1/8 inch and are attached to the fine branches. The trap contains a small opening with a hinged lid surrounded by many branched plant hairs. While at rest, fluid inside the trap is slowly absorbed, resulting in decreased water pressure inside the trap. When a small prey brushes against one of the sensitive trigger hairs, an electrical action potential opens the trap door and the prey is "sucked" into the trap. Digestion takes several days. Bladderworts can ingest a large number of mosquito larva and are ecologically valuable.

All About Water Wheels



The Water Wheel is another Carnivorous Plant with active traps. It is less known and difficult to obtain. It grows much like the bladderworts.

It consists of a rootless stem with leaves arranged like spokes on a wheel. Each whorl consists of 8 leaves about a 1/2 inch long with traps at the tips that closely resemble the Venus Flytrap. There are about 40 trigger hairs. It grows near the surface of freshwater, acid swamps in tropical and temperate regions. Its range extends from Europe and Africa to Japan and Australia.

All About Sundews



The sundews are truly beautiful Carnivorous Plants. Their green and red leaves are covered with glistening droplets of mucilage that sparkle in the sunlight.

They are generally perennial herbaceous plants. Germination by seed is easy. Leaf shape ranges from circular to linear. The leaves are flat and have numerous tentacles or stalked glands on their upper surfaces. There are two types of stalked glands. Those on the leaf margins are longer and help entrap the prey. Those near the center of the leaf are short and also help trap prey, but mainly they secrete digestive fluids. Neighboring tentacles and those in contact with the prey all move towards the victim. The movement of these tentacles results when cells on the far side of the stalk grow faster, thus bending the stalk towards the prey.

All About Butterworts



The butterworts form a rosette with stalkless leaves. The thin glistening leaves are elongated, narrow and generally flat with curled leaf edges.

The inner surface is covered with tiny glands and feels greasy to the touch. Their genus name *Pinguicula* comes from the Latin word *pinguis*, meaning fat. The plant is usually a pale yellow-green. The butterworts are generally inconspicuous except during the flowering season, and they resemble other plants growing in the same area. Butterworts capture their prey using the flypaper-like method. Small insects become ensnared in the mucilage-covered leaves. The margins slowly curl over the animal in about two hours, after which digestion takes place.

All About Pitcher Plants



Pitcher plants have prominent, decorative trap leaves that are basically tubular and usually topped with a hood. Pitcher plants have evolved several interesting methods to trap

prey. Bright coloring and the secretion of nectar lure prey to the pitcher opening. The nectar is often intoxicating and disorients the insect. The slick upper inner lining of the tube causes most insects to fall into the trap. There, stiff downward-pointing hairs allow the prey to make a one-way journey deeper into the ever-narrowing tube. In some species digestive glands secrete enzymes which digest the prey. In other species, bacterial action breaks down the victim. In either case, the prey is digested and its nutrients are absorbed. The foul smell of the decomposing prey may be helpful in luring other prey. The digestive fluids do not digest all creatures.

The Venus Flytrap

What is this plant's scientific name?

Describe this plant.

Write 2 interesting facts about this carnivorous plant.

Draw a picture of this carnivorous plant.



The Bladderwort

What is this plant's scientific name?

Describe this plant.

Write 2 interesting facts about this carnivorous plant.

Draw a picture of this carnivorous plant.

The Water Wheel

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The Sundew

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The Butterwort

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The Pitcher Plant

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