



Ted Alejandro, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education



RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

JUDY D. WHITE, Ed.D. County Superintendent of Schools

Wednesday, May 6

2:00pm

Plants Behaving Badly, Part 1,
4th – 8th grade

Two groups of plants exhibit such intriguing behavior that a century and a half ago they attracted the attention of Charles Darwin. These same plants, the orchids and the carnivorous plants, still fascinate scientists today. This two-part series takes an in-depth look at these two plants. Charles Darwin was fascinated by the extraordinary behavior of carnivorous plants, and we now know that he barely knew the half of it. Recently scientists have shown that many more plants are carnivorous than we ever thought. Welcome to the world of killer tomatoes and murderous potatoes. But even the more obvious carnivorous plants — sundews, flytraps and pitchers — are revealing new behavior. Carnivorous plants have featured in many sci-fi films over the years, but the reality turns out to be far stranger than the fiction.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- What is the central idea (main claim or thesis) of the text? Is there a quote from the TV show that represents the author’s central idea?
- Choose 2-3 unfamiliar words for the program and define them.
- What is your analysis of the program? What evidence did you identify to support your analysis of the TV show?
- Provide an objective summary of the program.
- What interaction influenced future events? Provide evidence.
- What were some of the carnivorous plants and what did they eat?
- Who was Charles Darwin and why did he study these plants?
- What are the benefits of carnivorous plants? What are the problems?

Question Box 2

- What did you learn from the program?
- What resources will you need to learn more about this topic?
- Have you ever seen a carnivorous plant up close? What did you notice about it?
- What do you believe the director could have done differently to help you learn more about this topic easier?
- What did you find most interesting and why?

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Box 3 (Tasks)

- There are approximately 28,000 species of orchids today. That is 4 times the amount of mammal species; two times the number of bird species and almost equal to the number of boney fish species. How many of the other species are there?
- The species of orchids are anywhere from 6-11% of all seed plant species. What is the range of seed plant species? Use mathematics to justify your reasoning.
- Draw one of the carnivorous plants from this episode. Label its parts.

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Compare and contrast two different plants – one of them being carnivorous. Use a graphic organizer and draw them too!
- Watch this video to see more carnivorous plants in action.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArBZzrV3xww>

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Describe why plants are important to the earth, atmosphere, humans, and animals.
- Review the following webpage and answer the questions.
<https://www.cacareerzone.org/profile/19-1013.00>
 - What do they do on the job?
 - What is the average salary for this career?
 - What type of education is needed?
 - What types of businesses do they work at?
 - What other titles might soil and plant scientists be called?
- At the bottom of the webpage there is a list of similar careers. Select one you are interested in to compare and contrast.
 - List the similarities and differences of the two careers.
- Would you consider a career in this industry? Why or why not?
- Share what you have learned with a family member.