

La Planta Carnívora

The Venus Flytrap

LA PLANTA CARNÍVORA

Por **Radha Weaver**, *Periódico Bilingüe La Voz*

Traducción de **Odacir Bolaño**

Unos atrapan las ruidosas moscas con papel pegajoso
Otros con un matamoscas las aplastan ¡Qué asqueroso!
Pero yo hago algo diferente; conseguí un exterminador
Es la carnívora o Venus atrapamoscas, mortal con su esplendor

Tiene el nombre de una diosa de la mitología romana
Venus, que amaba la ecología y la vida vegetal gobernaba
Sus rápidos movimientos son de un grupo único en el mundo
Junto a la Lentibularia y la Drosera, un revuelto nauseabundo

Además tiene mandíbulas para devorar insectos desprevenidos
Como una almeja mortal con restos de los insectos ingeridos
Pobrecitos los insectos que a dicha trampa se acercan
Basta mover un pelo y las mandíbulas crujen y se cierran

Si la Atrapamoscas es una planta ¿Por qué come moscas?
Si no obtiene nutrientes del suelo, se muere la Atrapamoscas
Así que a condiciones bastante extremas se tuvo que adaptar
Entre pantanos costeros, vitaminas y minerales debía hallar

Esta planta es nativa de Carolina del Norte y del Sur
Para tener una en casa, muy creativo debes ser tú
Se necesita humedad en la raíz y el aire y un área soleada
El suelo debe ser arenoso y tener una acidez elevada

¿Tener una como mascota? Bien lo puedes intentar
Porque no son una amenaza, eso lo debo confesar
Durante toda su vida, sólo tres moscas podrían atrapar
Pero es divertido contar su historia haciéndola rimar



SO FAR I'M NOT SO IMPRESSED BY THESE GENETIC ENGINEERING EXPERIMENTS ON VENUS FLYTRAPS.



HASTA AHORA NO ME SIENTO MUY IMPRESIONADO POR HACER EXPERIMENTOS DE INGENIERÍA GENÉTICA CON LA PLANTA CARNÍVORA.

THE VENUS FLYTRAP

By **Radha Weaver**, *La Voz Bilingual Newspaper*

Some catch buzzing flies with paper that's sticky
Some use a fly swatter to swat flies, that's icky
But I do it different; no I don't use a zapper
I use disarmingly cute, deadly Venus Flytrap(er)

Named after a goddess from Roman mythology
(Venus ruled plant life, she was into ecology)
The Flytrap's quick movements put it in a group
With Bladderwort & Sundew (a foul tasting soup)

This carnivorous plant has bug-eating jaws
A deadly clamshell rimmed with nectar it draws
Poor little bugs to land in its trap
When they trigger two hairs the jaws close with a snap

If the Flytrap's a plant, why does it eat flies?
Without nutrient soil, the Flytrap it dies
So it learned to adapt to conditions so harsh
To catch vitamins and minerals in a southeast-coast marsh

In the Carolinas this plant is a native
To keep one in your house you must get creative
It needs lots of sun, wet roots, high humidity
Its' soil should be sandy and high in acidity

You can be just like me and keep one as a pet
Though I really must warn you they're not much of a threat
They might only catch three flies in their entire lifetime
But they are good fun to research and more fun to rhyme

EVER NOTICE THAT THE BEST SPOT IN THE SWAMP TO CATCH FLIES IS OUT BY VENUS FLYTRAPS?

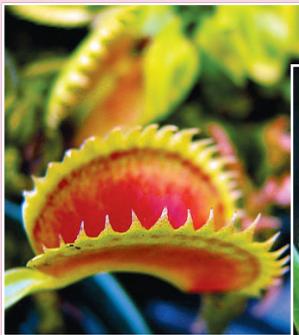


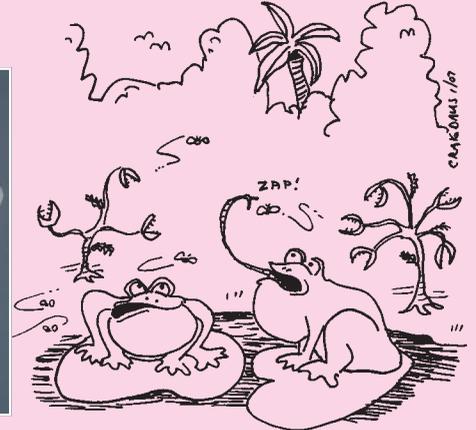
Photo by **David Lynch**



Dionaea Muscipula

Venus Flytrap Blossoms by

Makoto Honda



¿HAS OBSERVADO QUE EL MEJOR LUGAR PARA ATRAPAR MOSCAS EN EL PANTANO ES LEJOS DE LAS PLANTAS CARNÍVORAS?

MAKE PARENT INVOLVEMENT YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

In recognition of this important idea and in celebration of the New Year, I offer the following suggestions on how you can support your child's academic success both at home and at school.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT BEGINS AT HOME

- **Establish routines that provide an environment for learning.** Morning routines will get your child off to a good start, while afternoon routines provide structure for completing homework and talking about the school day. Bedtime routines ensure that your child is well-rested and ready for active learning the following morning.
- **Be attentive to your children's academic needs.** Spend time with your children as they are doing homework. Help them with it, watch them do it, or ask them questions about it. If your child struggles with homework regularly, don't hesitate to make an appointment with the teacher.
- **Be aware of the teacher's expectations** in terms of homework, tests, quizzes, and projects. With this information, you can help guide and support your child in meeting those expectations.
- **Motivate your child.** When your children work hard on an assignment, let them know that you've noticed. Reward

- efforts, as well as accomplishments, but don't use money or other material incentives as payment for academic efforts. Help your child feel the satisfaction of having worked hard and accomplished an assignment or task.
- **Talk to your children** about their hopes and dreams, then relate them to the importance of education. Guide your children in understanding how education plays a vital part in everything they do in life.
- **Make reading a habit** and part of the daily routine in your household. By modeling good reading habits yourself, you encourage your child to find enjoyment and knowledge in reading. Over and over, studies indicate that children who read and/or are read to on a regular basis perform better in school.
- **Provide your child with learning opportunities** at home. This may include something as simple as writing a letter to a distant relative or counting beans as they "help" you with the cooking.
- Attend community events that **give your child with new experiences.** For example, a visit to a museum or an event at the local library is an educational activity that far outweighs the benefits of staying home and watching television or playing video games.

- **Stay informed** about what is going on at school. Check your child's backpack daily and read everything the teacher sends home. By being informed, you'll be in a better position to advocate for your children's academic needs and support their learning.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT CONTINUES AT SCHOOL

- **Attend special school events,** including class field trips, back-to-school nights, open houses, talent shows, sports events, and concerts. These are great opportunities for parents who may not feel comfortable in a school setting. The events are usually well attended, making it easy to blend in with the crowd.
- **Volunteer in the classroom.** Once a week, once a month, or once a year—help is always welcome. Remember, you don't have to be a teacher type; you simply need to be willing to assist.
- **Contribute to the classroom in other ways.** If you can't volunteer during school hours or you don't feel comfortable being a class volunteer, let the teacher know about your special talents or hobbies—gardening, sewing, woodwork, etc. Teachers are always looking for people to make things that can be used for classroom activities.

- **Volunteer in the office, school library, or copy center.** Here, you can shelve library books, make copies, or hand out late passes in the morning. If you are bilingual, you're help is especially valuable!
 - **Contribute to class parties or other special events.** Respond to the call for juice or cookies or volunteer to set up, serve, or clean up.
 - **Join the PTA or ELAC.** Through these organizations, you can have a substantial impact on school climate and student learning. PTAs raise funds for special activities and needed resources. Parents serving on ELACs can provide input for improving the educational experience for students who are learning English. Take it one step further and run for a position on the school site council or school board if you're interested in having a say on policy and budget issues.
- With the renewed energy and motivation that the New Year brings, I challenge all of us to turn our commitment to our children's education into action. By taking on the role of "partner in education," we can make a big difference in their success. So, start today and set a goal! Take one step at a time and focus on just one area of improvement. I'm certain that any continuous effort you make will benefit both you and your children.