

Write Your Own Plant Play

Work with your friends to make up a play. Make most of the characters plants.

First, decide where the action will take place. Then name each character and tell what kind of plant he or she is.

Finally, plan what each plant will say and how it will move. For example:

ROSIE: (swaying in circles) *I am so thirsty. I wish it would rain.*

Don't forget to give your play a title. Then practice your plant play a few times. When your group is ready, ask your teacher if you may perform it for the class.



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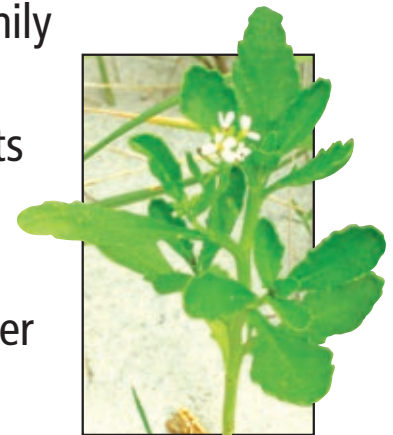
Plant Family Feud

By Ron Fridell

Plants are not smart. Right? Who ever heard of a tree or a flower that could think?

But some plants may be smarter than we think. Two scientists found this out. They closely watched a plant called the Great Lakes sea rocket. It grows near some lakes and oceans. Part of its seed pod can pop off like a rocket!

This plant is special because it seems to know the difference between a family member and a stranger. Sea rockets share food with plants in their own family. But they do not share with strangers. So they must know what other plants are around them.



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Here's what happens. Plants use their roots to get food from soil. When a family member is nearby, the sea rocket shares the food. But when a stranger is nearby, the sea rocket gets selfish. It sends out long roots through the soil. The roots hog the food. The sea rocket will not share with the stranger.

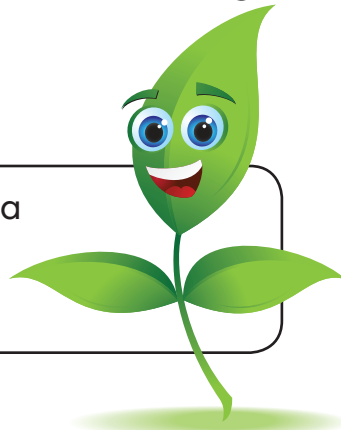


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How can sea rockets tell family from strangers? No one knows—yet. But scientists are looking for answers.

Try This

On a separate paper, draw a plant. Label where you think it would use each of the five senses.



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ABCDEFG

Alphabet Plants

Write the letters of the alphabet down one side of a piece of paper. Try to write the name of a plant that starts with each letter. Use the library or a computer for more help. Remember, trees are plants too.

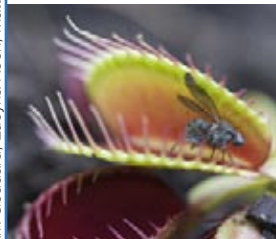


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Here is one plant to get you started. It's the Xanthorrhoea, from Australia.

Fun Facts: Plants that have Senses

Venus Flytraps



Venus flytraps catch insects or spiders and use them for food!

Mimosa Plants



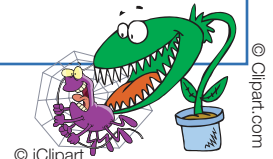
Mimosa leaves try to look dead when an animal touches them.

Sunflowers



Sunflowers turn to face the Sun.

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