

LEVEL

4

Beginner

Compass
Readers

Weird Plants

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★ Contents ★



Strange Figs 4



Plants with Teeth 8



Plants like Cups 11



Plants and People 14

Glossary 19

Index 20

Strange Figs

Plants come in all shapes and sizes. Trees grow to be very big. Flowers fill gardens with bright colors.

Many plants are pretty, while others are a little strange. One **weird** plant is the **fig** tree.





Fig trees are fruit trees. They grow in hot, wet places. Some fig trees are pretty strange!

Like most plants, figs start off as **seeds**. Sometimes, these seeds stick to a nearby tree.



This is a fig tree.

Do you know what happens next? The fig seeds begin to grow. They form “air roots.” These **roots** take food from the “parent” tree. Over time, the roots grow and spread. They plant themselves into the ground.

After a while, the fig will completely cover its parent tree. The parent will die, but the fig will stay.

Fig trees seem weird, don't they? However, they are important for many animals. They provide fruit to eat and a place to live.



Plants with Teeth

Some plants provide food for animals. Other plants use animals as food!

Look at the strange plant in this picture. Plants like these grow in **wetlands**. Wetlands have very poor **soil**. How do these plants live in such poor soil?

This Venus Flytrap eats bugs!





Take a close look at this plant. Its leaves look like an open mouth. When a bug lands on these leaves, they close quickly. The bug is stuck!

Plants like these have special **juices**. These juices turn bugs into food. Even in poor soil, these plants have all the food they need!