



HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

Name: _____

Date: _____

Growing Carnivorous Plants: Venus Flytraps

QUESTION

What conditions help Venus flytraps grow healthy and catch insects?

HYPOTHESIS

If I provide the right light, water, and soil, then my Venus flytrap will grow healthy and catch insects.



MATERIALS

- 1 Venus flytrap plant (*Dionaea muscipula*)
- Small pot with drainage holes
- Carnivorous plant soil mix (or sphagnum peat moss + perlite, 1:1)
- Distilled water or rainwater
- Tray or shallow dish (for water)
- Bright location or grow light
- Small insects (fruit flies or gnats) (Optional)



PROCEDURE

1. Plant your Venus flytrap in the pot using the carnivorous plant soil mix.
2. Place the pot in a tray and add distilled water so the tray is always 1/2 inch deep. Keep the soil moist but not soggy.
3. Put your plant in a bright spot with at least 4–6 hours of sunlight daily (or use a grow light for 12–14 hours).
4. Do not fertilize the plant. It gets nutrients from insects!
5. Observe your plant over the next 2–4 weeks. If desired, place a small insect inside a trap to see if it closes.
6. Record your observations in the data table.



VARIABLES

Independent Variable:
Light amount (natural light vs. grow light)

Dependent Variables:
Plant growth (size, number of traps)
Trap response (closes or not)

Controlled Variables:
Water type, soil type, pot size, temperature



DATA TABLE

Date	Light (hrs/day)	New Growth? (Yes/No)	Number of Traps	Trap Closed on Insect? (Yes/No)	Notes



ANALYSIS & CONCLUSION

1. What conditions helped your Venus flytrap grow best? _____
2. Did your plant catch insects? If so, how did you know? _____
3. What did you learn about carnivorous plants? _____
4. If you could repeat this experiment, what would you do differently? _____

Overall conclusion: _____

(Was your hypothesis correct? Why or why not?) _____