



Make Venus flytrap friends

Make a fun gang of cardboard carnivorous plants.

Venus flytraps are carnivorous plants (ones that eat animals) native to wetlands on the east coast of the US. They attract insects and spiders with the red lining of their jaw-like leaves. As creatures touch the tiny hairs inside they trigger the leaves to snap shut. Any prey is squashed and substances called enzymes are released to digest the bug.

In this activity you can create your own flytrap friends from cardboard. Look for left-over packaging in supermarkets, used to hold things like apples and oranges. You can also use small cardboard bowls or sections of egg cartons, or cut circles from flat card and fold and stick them to make a cupped shape. Arrange your finished flytraps in pots filled with sand or gravel. Squeeze the flytraps at the sides to close their mouths. Or fix them closed by applying a little glue to the back of the teeth and pressing together.

What you need

- Cardboard fruit trays
- Paper straws
- Scissors
- Card
- Paints
- Paper for leaves
- A pen
- A plant pot
- Masking tape



1 Cut out sections from a cardboard fruit tray. You'll need two matching sections per flytrap.



2 Trim each section around the edge then paint the cupped insides with red or pink.



3 Turn all the pieces over then paint the outsides in green. Leave to dry.



4 Cut thin strips with straight edges from the side of each section. Draw zigzag teeth along the curved edges and then cut them out.



5 Stick a straw to one half of the flytrap mouth with tape and then tape the other half to it so that the straight edges meet. Paint over the tape.



6 Draw and cut out some card eyes and stick them on top. Bend the straw at the top then glue some painted paper leaves to it.

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