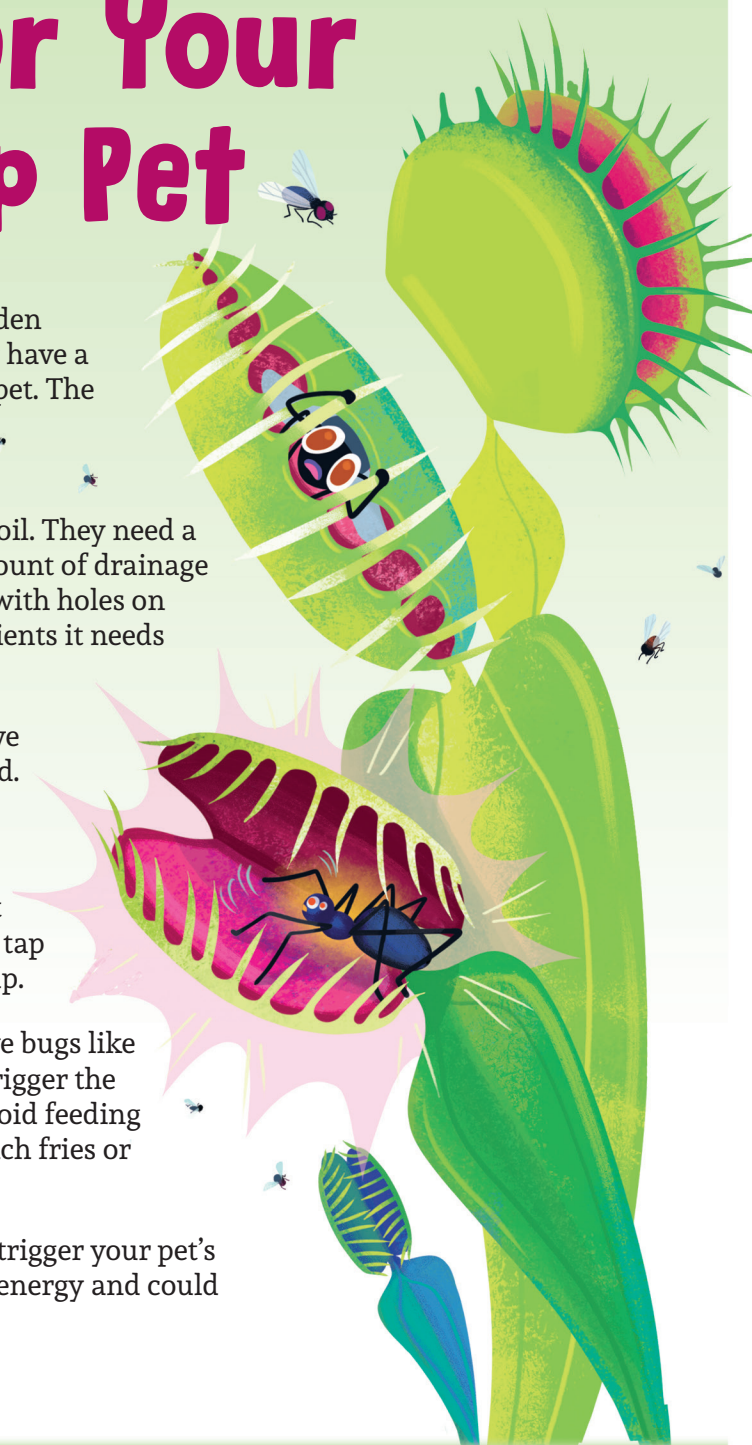


How to Care for Your Venus Flytrap Pet

You can have your very own Venus flytrap pet. Buy one at a garden center—they can take years to grow from seeds. You'll instantly have a carnivorous plant that you'll need to water and feed, just like a pet. The only question is, what will you name it?

1. **Plant it.** Venus flytrap plants can't be planted in just any soil. They need a special carnivorous plant soil mix to provide the right amount of drainage and moisture. That's why you'll also need to choose a pot with holes on the bottom. Don't use fertilizer—your pet gets all the nutrients it needs from bugs!
2. **Give it light.** Put your pet in a sunny windowsill—they love sunshine. Make sure the temperature indoors isn't too cold. Your pet likes the weather inside to be at least 80 degrees Fahrenheit (21 degrees Celsius).
3. **Water it...carefully.** Keep the soil moist by sitting the plant in a shallow tray of distilled water or rainwater. Don't use tap water, which has minerals that could harm your pet flytrap.
4. **Feed it...more carefully.** Your flytrap pet needs to be fed live bugs like fruit flies or small spiders. Live ones (not dead ones) will trigger the hairs that make its trap shut. One bug a month will do. Avoid feeding your pet foods you like to eat, like french fries or chicken!
5. **Avoid playtime.** Resist the urge to trigger your pet's hairs for fun. It wastes the plant's energy and could cause it to die.



About the book:

Just like people and animals, plants need to defend themselves. They face all kinds of threats, like pesky bugs, hungry animals and even large-clawed crabs. They can't scream or run away from danger. But many have developed surprisingly cool and courageous ways to keep themselves safe from harm.



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