

Experience the **Wonders of Nature** with Gardens by the Bay

- Colouring Activity - **Pitcher Plant**

The mention of “carnivorous plants” often brings to mind an image of a scary, monstrous, “meat-eating” plant. In reality, carnivorous plants are a fascinating group that pose no danger to humans! Carnivorous plants are different from other plants as they get some or most of their nutrients from trapping insects or smaller creatures (i.e. mosquito larvae, small lizards, spiders). In the wild, carnivorous plants grow in wet, muddy areas or rocky surfaces, with limited amounts of nutrients. This explains why they need to get their nutrients from other sources.

Some carnivorous plants that grow in the Cloud Forest of Gardens by the Bay are pitcher plants, Venus Flytraps and butterworts.



The pitcher plant is so-named because of its resemblance to a flask or pitcher. The “pitcher” is formed from its leaf.

Pitcher plants lure their prey by producing sweet-smelling nectar. Surrounding the entrance to the trap is the “lip”, which often has numerous slippery grooves. Once inside, the waxy and slippery walls of the pitcher make it impossible for the trapped prey to escape. Trying to climb up the walls is equivalent to skating on ice! As the prey struggles, its movement activates the plant to release more digestive enzymes, which help to gradually break down the prey. The nutrients that come from the prey are absorbed by the plant.

Something is caught in the Pitcher Plant! What is it?
Draw it and colour the picture.

