



# Stanford House Achieving Reading Kits 1 (SHARK)

Comprehension and writing response centres



**Play**  
Following firefighters with an action. They will show you how to use the fire truck, then they will show you how to use the fire truck. They will show you how to use the fire truck, then they will show you how to use the fire truck.

**Reading story**  
When a house is on fire, the firemen will try to save it. They will use their fire trucks and fire engines. They will use their fire trucks and fire engines. They will use their fire trucks and fire engines.

**The game**  
A game for two players. The game is for two players. The game is for two players. The game is for two players.

**The rescue plan**  
The rescue plan is for two players. The rescue plan is for two players. The rescue plan is for two players. The rescue plan is for two players.



# Set One – Beginning

Card #	Title	Word Count	Text Type	Topics	RRL*
1	My Robot	123	Poem	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	12
2	My Angry Pet Snake	135	Poem	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	13
3	Planes	143	Information report	Technology	17
4	The Hungry Sea Monster	144	Narrative	Getting Along with Others - Sharing, Co-operation, Rivalry	10
5	Pirates	150	Description / procedure	Leisure & Entertainment	5
6	Lift-Off!	150	Factual recount	Technology	11
7	Trains	150	Information report	Technology	16
8	Polar Bears	150	Procedure	Nature & Environment	10
9	Lions and Tigers	156	Information report	Nature & Environment	11
10	Red Beard the Pirate	160	Narrative	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	12
11	Penguin Rescue	170	Factual recount	Nature & Environment	12
12	The Planets	170	Information report	Nature & Environment	11
13	Crocodiles and Alligators	173	Information report	Nature & Environment	21
14	Letter to Captain Red Beard	190	Letter	Getting Along with Others - Sharing, Co-operation, Rivalry	15
15	Bones the Sea Dog	240	Narrative	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	13
16	Cartoon Corner	59	Cartoon	Communicating - Media & Publications	10
17	Celebration Card	55	Procedure	Getting Along with Others - Friendship	12
18	Letter to the Tooth Fairy	72	Letter	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	12
19	Your Muscles and Bones	80	Explanation	Wonderful Things - Human Body	10
20	Variations	88	Cartoon	Wonderful Things - Human Body	10

\* RRL refers to the reading recovery levels of the original sources.

## Set One – Consolidating

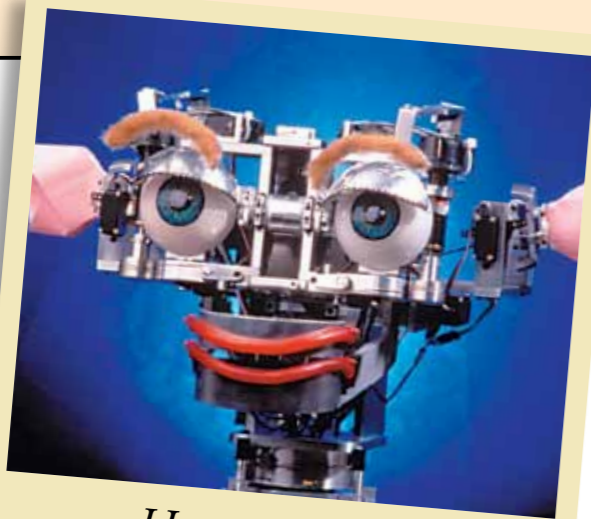
Card #	Title	Word Count	Text Type	Topics	RRL*
21	Riddles	150	Riddle	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	16
22	On the Prowl	170	Information report	Nature & Environment	21
23	Dog Overboard	200	Narrative	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	16
24	The Great Race	230	Narrative	Getting Along with Others - Sharing, Co-operation, Rivalry	17
25	Plants that Bite Back	250	Description	Nature & Environment	20
26	Boy Trapped in Venus	260	News article	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	21
27	The Big Rat	266	Narrative	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	20
28	Finding Fossils	95	Information report	Wonderful Things - Precious Things	18-20
29	Knock Knocks	140	Joke	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	16
30	Please Leave the Light On	140	Poem	Teenage Life - Growing Up	21
31	Funny Face	168	Fiction	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	24
32	Creatures That Sting	180	Information report	Wonderful Things - Precious Things	29
33	How Bear Lost his Tail	190	Fiction	Getting Along with Others - Sharing, Co-operation, Rivalry	18
34	Seabirds	200	Information report	Nature & Environment	29
35	Pirate Pete	205	Fiction	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	20
36	Web Watch Review	230	Magazine report	Communicating - Media & Publications	21
37	Line Poems	40	Poem	Nature & Environment	15
38	Make Your Own Volcano	125	Procedure	Study, School Life & Work - Experiments & Projects	30+
39	Dinosaur Dig	150	Information report	Nature & Environment	18-20
40	Chilling Out	220	Recount	Getting Along with Others - Sharing, Co-operation, Rivalry	30

\* RRL refers to the reading recovery levels of the original sources.

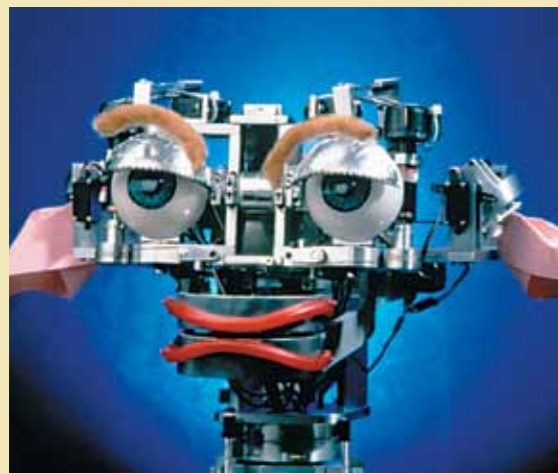
# Set One - Extending

Card #	Title	Word Count	Text Type	Topics	RRL*
41	Saving Greedy Guts	220	Recount	Getting Along with Others - Sharing, Co-operation, Rivalry	30
42	The Marathon Runner	230	Recount	Getting Along with Others - Sharing, Co-operation, Rivalry	28
43	Firefighters	240	Information report	Study, School Life & Work - Occupations, Careers & Prospects	18-20
44	Fighter Planes	245	Information report	Technology	18-20
45	Deaf Debbie and Handsome Hugo	250	Poem	Getting Along with Others - Sharing, Co-operation, Rivalry	22
46	The World's Longest Toenail	270	Recount	Teenage Life - Growing Up	22
47	The Fox and the Grapes	170	Fable / cartoon	Teenage Life - Growing Up	20
48	Losing Nemo	185	Information report	Nature & Environment	30+
49	Plants that Bite Back	186	Information report	Nature & Environment	20
50	Tiny Attackers	210	Information report	Nature & Environment	30+
51	Tornadoes	210	Information report	Nature & Environment	30+
52	Hoaxes, Fibs and Fakes	235	Information report	Communicating - Media & Publications	23
53	Wild Waves	250	Information report	Leisure & Entertainment - The World of Sports	24
54	Great Big Copy Cats	250	Information report	Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative	26
55	Four-line Poems	33	Poetry	Nature & Environment	20
56	Brain Power	210	Information report	Wonderful Things - Human Body	24
57	Volcanoes	235	Explanation	Nature & Environment	30+
58	Ghost Dog Mystery	282	Narrative	Teenage Life - Growing Up	27
59	Morse Code	177	Explanation	Communicating - International Network (Internet)	22
60	Movie Tickets On Line	225	Procedure	Communicating - International Network (Internet)	23

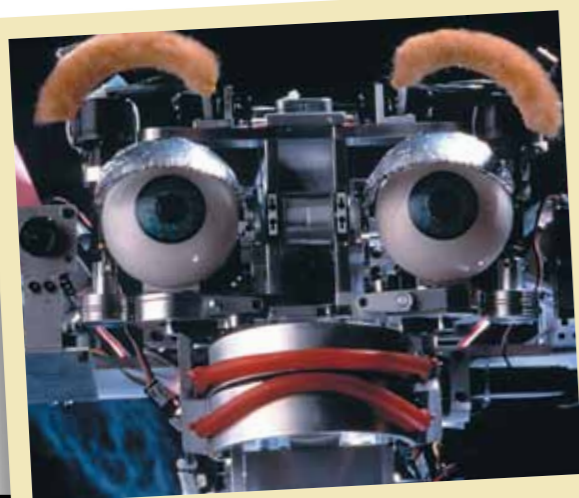
\* RRL refers to the reading recovery levels of the original sources.



*Happy Kismet*



*Sad Kismet*



*Scared Kismet*

I'm so happy I just want to shout with joy  
It's what I've always wanted – the most fantastic toy!

It's made out of shiny steel  
I can't believe it's real.

My very own robot  
It knows such a lot.

It has eyes that are round and red  
Long funny ears either side of its head.

It races around on shiny wheels  
When it's excited it makes loud squeals.

I can get it to tidy my room  
Off it goes with a zoom.

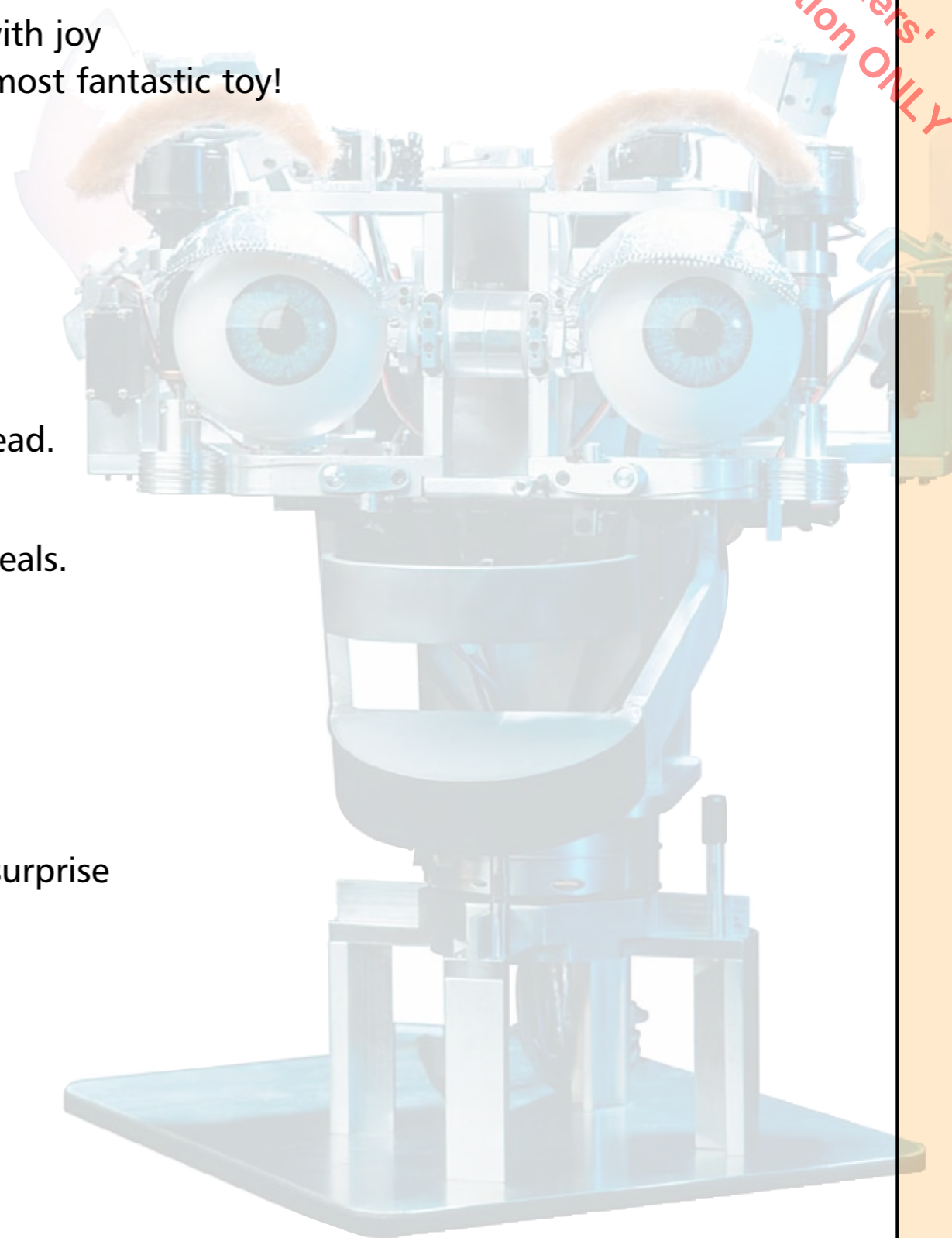
Everything is tidy and neat  
It doesn't even need a treat.

I am keeping my robot as a secret surprise  
My friends won't believe their eyes.

When they come to play  
I'll just say...

Look what I've got  
My very own ROBOT!!!

– *Written by Fiona Jackson*





## READ IT!

### After reading the text ...

Did you notice any interesting words in the text?

#### ◆ Rhyming words

There are rhyming words in the poem. These are words that sound the same. List some words that rhyme with the words below.

got	
red	
toy	
steel	
room	
treat	
eyes	
play	
wheels	

#### ◆ Adjectives

Adjectives are describing words. They are used to help readers imagine what they are reading about. List some adjectives from the poem.

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## THINK IT! TALK IT!

### After reading ... Think and share with a partner.

You can own a pet robot! In Japan many people own pet robots. They are called Robopets. They are very easy to take care of. What would be a good thing about owning a pet robot? What wouldn't be so good? What type of pet robot would you like?

Set One - Beginning Level

# 1 MY ROBOT

Text Type: Poem  
Topic: Leisure & Entertainment - Imaginative  
Word Count: 123  
Audio: Disc 1 - Track No. 1



## ZONE IN!

### Before reading ...

This is a poem about a child who gets a dream toy ... a robot! Would you like to own a robot? What sorts of things would you get your robot to do? Turn over and read. Find out some things the robot in the poem does.

For teachers' inspection ONLY



## CHECK IT!

### After reading the text...

#### A Choose the correct answer.

- This is a poem about a child who has always wanted
  - to get a toy.
  - to get his own toy robot.
  - his friends to come and play with him.
  - to give his friends a secret surprise.
- The toy robot moves very fast because it
  - is equipped with shiny wheels.
  - is made out of shiny steel.
  - has eyes that are round and red.
  - has long funny ears either side of its head.
- The toy robot owner can get it to
  - make loud squeals.
  - keep a secret for him.
  - tidy his room.
  - play with his friends.

#### B Find the word or phrase in the text that best fits each meaning.

- Used to emphasize that something belongs to or is connected with me and no one else. (3 words)
- Something that you buy or pay for another person.

**Answer Key**  
**CHECK IT!**  
**A** 1. b 2. a  
**B** 1. My very own

3. c  
2. Treat

**READ IT!**  
**Rhyming words**  
got – robot, lot red – head  
steel – real room – zoom  
eyes – surprise play – say

toy – joy  
treat – neat  
wheels – squeals

**Adjectives**  
happy, fantastic, shiny, real, round,  
long, funny, excited, loud, tidy, neat

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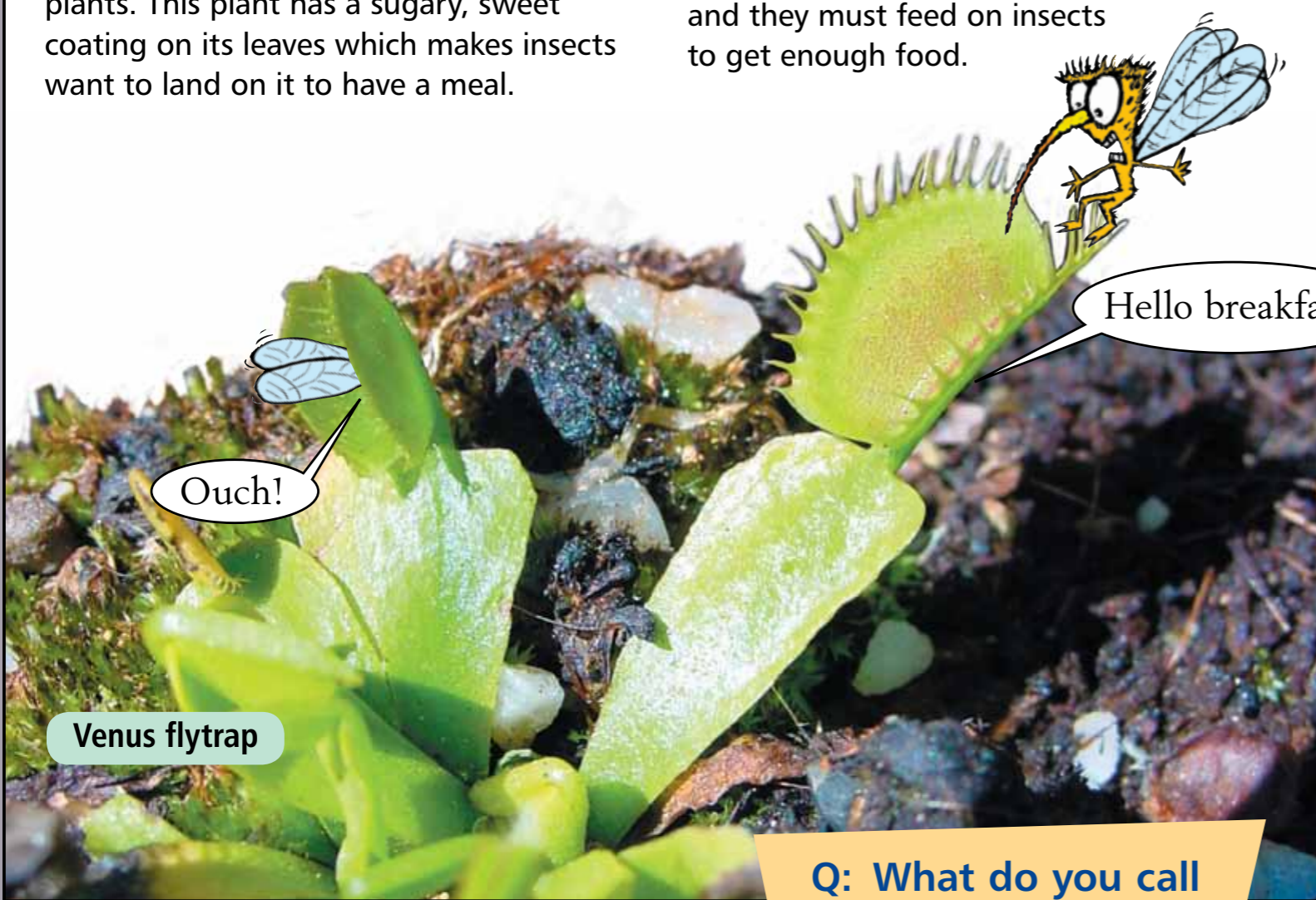
Plants can't walk but they can set traps. Meat-eating plants are too small to eat large animals. Most of them eat insects. But a few eat mice, frogs and even small birds.

## Venus flytraps

This is one of the best known meat-eating plants. This plant has a sugary, sweet coating on its leaves which makes insects want to land on it to have a meal.

Insects crawl onto the leaves and brush against tiny hairs. These hairs tell the leaves to snap shut. They are called "trigger hairs". The insect is trapped. The leaves close tighter and tighter squashing and killing the insect. The plant eats the insect.

The leaves then open again ready for the next meal. Venus flytraps live in swamps and they must feed on insects to get enough food.



**Q:** What do you call nervous insects?  
**A:** Jitterbugs!

## Pitcher plants

The pitcher plant's leaves are shaped like a jug or a pitcher. Some are brightly coloured and they have a sugary coating along the edge of their leaves. Some pitcher plants are small and only catch insects. Some, however, are large enough to catch frogs and mice.

An insect flies by to taste the sugar. But the sides of the leaves are very steep and the insect falls down the slippery slope and is trapped. The insect drowns in a pool of juices at the bottom of the plant. The plant only eats the soft parts. The skeleton is left. Piles of skeletons can collect at the bottom of the pitcher plant.



Three types of pitcher plants



## READ IT!

### After reading the text ...

Complete the activities on the sheet.

- Which plant would you like to have at your place? Why?
- Which insects would you like your plant to eat?
- Search for the words in the grid. List them out as many as you can see.

V	B	L	E	F	O	O	D
E	P	I	T	C	H	E	R
N	R	W	F	K	N	D	M
U	V	H	A	I	R	S	L
S	Z	W	J	E	B	L	E
H	P	L	A	N	T	S	A
V	D	B	H	W	Q	E	V
I	N	S	E	C	T	S	E
O	I	G	T	F	D	F	S
T	R	A	P	S	M	P	X



## THINK IT! TALK IT!

### After reading ... Think and share with a partner.

Which plant did you find the most interesting? Did you know that the Venus flytrap can be kept as a houseplant? Why would they be useful? Would you like to watch one catching insects?

What is your favourite plant? What do you like about this plant?

Set One - Consolidating Level

# 25

## PLANTS THAT BITE BACK

Text Type: Description  
Topic: Nature & Environment  
Word Count: 250  
Audio: Disc 1 - Track No. 25



## ZONE IN!

### Before reading the text ...

Did you know there are meat-eating plants? These plants offer a treat to insects so they will land on them. That's when the trap is set and the plant gets a meal. Most of these plants eat insects but one type can even catch frogs!

For teachers' inspection ONLY



## CHECK IT!

### After reading the text...

#### A Choose the correct answer.

- Venus flytraps are meat-eating plants that feed on
  - frogs.
  - mice.
  - insects.
  - small birds.
- The tiny hairs on a Venus flytrap's leaves are triggers that
  - tell the leaves to snap shut.
  - feed on insects to get enough food.
  - squash and kill the insects.
  - make insects want to land on the plant.
- The juices inside a pitcher plant cause the insects to
  - fall down.
  - drown.
  - fly by.
  - taste the sugar.

#### B Complete each sentence using ONE correct word. The answers are in the text.

- A Venus flytrap closes its \_\_\_\_\_ and traps the insect inside.
- Pitcher plants only digest the \_\_\_\_\_ parts of the insects.

**Answer Key**  
**CHECK IT!**  
**A** 1. c 2. a  
**B** 1. leaves 2. soft

**READ IT!**  
1-2. Open answers.  
3. VENUS  
INSECTS  
PLANTS  
FOOD  
HAIRS  
TRAPS  
PITCHER  
LEAVES

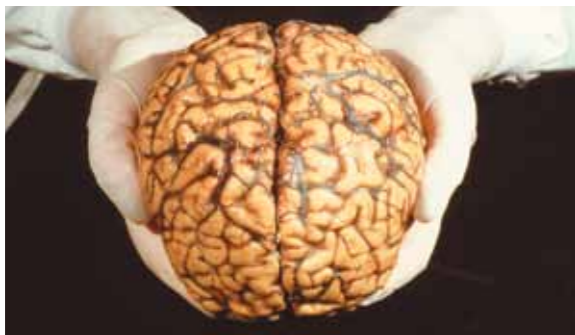


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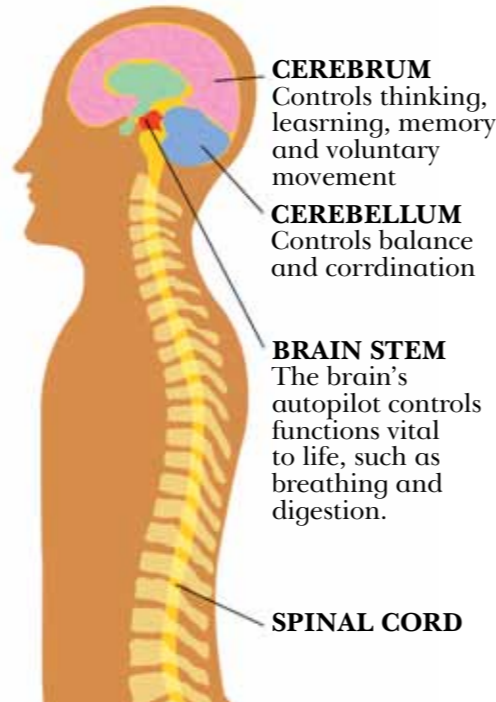
1

## What is a brain?

Inside your skull between your ears is a wrinkly, soft, pinkish lump. If you could unzip your skull and take out this lump, it would fit neatly into the palms of your hands. But don't do that! This strange-looking lump is a human brain. And you wouldn't survive without it.



## Your body's control system



2

## Tipping the scales

Usually, bigger animals have bigger brains. But this doesn't mean they are smarter. They just need a bigger brain to control their bigger muscles and take in information from all that extra skin surface.



Elephants and whales have the biggest brains. But if you compare brain size to body weight, humans come out tops. A whale's brain makes up about 0.02 per cent of its body weight, while a human brain makes up about 2 per cent of a person's body weight.

SPECIES	AVERAGE BRAIN WEIGHT
sperm whale	7 800 grams
elephant	6 000 grams
bottle-nosed dolphin	1 500–1 600 grams
human (adult)	1 300–1 400 grams
giraffe	680 grams
chimpanzee	420 grams
lion	240 grams
stegosaurus	75 grams
dog (beagle)	72 grams
cat	30 grams
rat	2 grams

3

## It's the grey matter that matters

The human brain is special in another way, too. The thin, outer layer of the brain is much bigger in humans than in other animals. This part of the brain is called the cerebral cortex. That's why the human brain is so wrinkly. Those wrinkles are the cortex folding in on itself. It is this large cortex that makes us so clever.

The human brain is nearly all cortex. Spread out, the cortex would cover about four sheets of photocopy paper.

A chimpanzee's cortex would cover one sheet of photocopy paper.

A rat's cortex would just cover a postage stamp.

A fish has almost no cortex at all!





## READ IT!

### After reading the text ...

- ◆ **Cloze activity** (Record answers in your student book.)
- 1. The three main parts of the brain are the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the b\_\_\_\_\_s\_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Coordination and balance are controlled by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. This part of the brain controls thinking and learning. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Functions vital to life such as breathing and digestion are controlled by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. The thin, outer layer of the human brain is called the \_\_\_\_\_.



## THINK IT! TALK IT!

### After reading ... Think and share with a partner.

#### ◆ Boost your brain power

You can train your brain to remember better! Look at the following list for 20 seconds. The items are: lemonade, elephants, flour, toothbrush, tonsils, onions, radishes, giraffes, hiccup, toaster.

Cover it and write down all the things you can remember.  
How many items did you remember?

#### Answer Key

##### CHECK IT!

- A 1. d 2. a 3. c
- B 1. cerebellum 2. brain stem
- C Open answers.

##### READ IT!

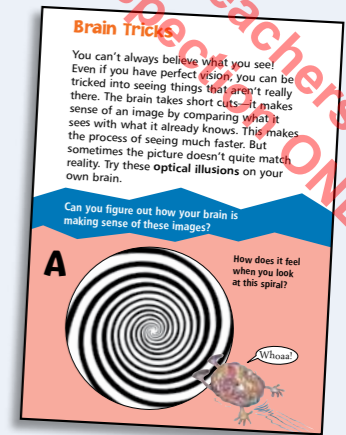
- 1. cerebrum, cerebellum, brain stem
- 2. cerebellum
- 4. brain stem
- 5. cerebral cortex
- 3. cerebrum



## ZONE IN!

### Before reading the text ...

You can't always believe what you see! The brain takes short cuts – it makes sense of an image by comparing what it sees with what it already knows. This makes the process of seeing much quicker but sometimes the picture doesn't quite match reality ...



For teachers' inspection ONLY



## CHECK IT!

### After reading the text...

#### A Choose the correct answer.

1. The part of the brain that controls voluntary movement is
  - a the brain stem.
  - b the cerebellum.
  - c the cerebral cortex.
  - d the cerebrum.
2. Bigger animals have bigger brains because
  - a they need a bigger brain to manage their bigger muscles.
  - b they are heavier and cleverer.
  - c their brains are so wrinkly.
  - d they need a larger cortex to make them smarter.
3. The cerebral cortex is also known as
  - a the photocopy paper.
  - b the wrinkle.
  - c the grey matter.
  - d the extra skin surface.

#### B Find the correct word(s). The answers are in the text.

1. Coordination and balance are controlled by the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Breathing and digestion are controlled by the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### C Be Good to Your Brain - what can you do for your brain?