

VENUS FLYTRAP

by Mellisa Hoffman

If you've ever walked through the fishing section of a sporting goods store, you've probably noticed that there are all kinds of different fishing lures. Big ones, little ones, furry ones, ones with shiny spinners, and others that look like small fish. No matter how different they all are from each other, they all have one thing in common. Can you guess what it is? That's right, a sharp hook! Without a hook, they wouldn't be able to catch anything. When an unsuspecting fish swims close to the lure, it moves in for a wonderful meal, and...surprise! It closes its mouth right around the fisherman's trap.



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK.COM/ABDESIGNA

Well, did you know there's a living trap that's an expert at catching insects? The Venus flytrap uses the same method as the fisherman—a lure. This plant secretes a sweet smelling sap that insects can't resist, making them a very easy meal for a hungry flytrap. A fly that comes in for a landing, or a spider that drops in for a visit only has to touch two of the six small trigger hairs on the inside of the Venus flytrap. When that happens, the leaves snap shut very quickly, trapping the insect inside. The plant now becomes a miniature stomach, and depending on the size of the captive insect, it digests its victim in five to twelve days.

Sadly, we live in a world of traps, but that was never God's intention.

In fact, Satan set the very first trap on this earth—the one for Adam and Eve—and he's been setting traps ever since. We need to be careful how we live our lives! Remember that

God is a Master Trap Detector and He will warn you before you fall into one. But you need to stay close to Him, so spend time each day in prayer and Bible study. The more time you spend with Him, the better you will know His voice when He tells you to watch out and be careful! ☺

Escape Plan:

“Keep me safe from the traps set by evildoers, from the snares they have laid for me.”
Psalm 141:9 (NIV)



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK.COM/MONICA PHOTO



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA/NOAH HELHARDT

The crossword puzzle grid contains the following numbers:

- 1: Down (top-right)
- 2: Down (top-middle)
- 3: Across (top-left)
- 4: Across (middle-left)
- 5: Across (bottom-middle)
- 6: Across (bottom-right)
- 7: Down (bottom-left)

TRAPPED CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 3. What a Venus flytrap does to its victim.
- 4. Used to catch fish.
- 5. Insects like the ___ sap of a flytrap.
- 7. What fishing lures have in common.

DOWN

- 1. He set the first trap.
- 2. They snap shut very quickly.
- 6. An insect has to touch this many hairs inside the flytrap.

