

## Can it be Real?? Activity #11

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Since this plant lives in poor soils, it has a unique method of collecting all the nutrients it needs to survive. When tiny hairs on the leaves are brushed by an insect, the leaf snaps shut, and the insect is trapped. Over a period of 5-12 days, the insect is slowly dissolved by chemicals secreted by the plant which are similar to human digestive juices. When the insect has been digested, the leaves open and the exoskeleton is blown away. *True = Venus Fly Trap*

These insects communicate with each other through a series of dances. One particular dance, the waggle dance, tells the location and quality of a flower nectar site. The waggle dance is then imitated and rehearsed until the other insects in the group have mastered it and can use it to find the nectar site. All of this is done by touch, and not by visually seeing the waggle dance. *True = Honey Bees*

This giant ant, which is about the size of a small mouse, feeds on small trees and shrubs. The pinching mouthparts are used to cut down trees and drag them back to communal “ant hill”. Although it is strictly a herbivore, its sting is potent enough to paralyze a large dog. *False*

This small mammal creates burrows in muddy and mucky areas. Since it has poor eyesight, it uses an unusual nose to find its way around. The nose consists of 22 small tentacles that contain around 25,000 touch sensors and 100,000 nerve fibers. That makes this small mammals nose several times more sensitive than the human hand. *True = Star-nosed mole*

This bird is a master of camouflage. It is able to change its color using muscles at the base of each feather. When its surroundings are green, it raises only green feathers, and when the surroundings are brown, only the brown feathers are raised. *False*

This tropical fish sleeps in “slime pajamas” at night. When settling in on the reef bottom, this fish starts to secrete transparent ooze that forms a gooey cocoon. It only takes about 30 minutes for this cocoon to be complete, and the fish can get a restful night of sleep knowing it is protected from predators like eels. *True = Parrotfish*

This plant is like an outdoor sauna. In order to attract pollinators, it gives the insects a warm place to stay in cold weather. Chemical reactions in the flowers cause the air to be 40 to 60 degrees warmer inside the flower than the surrounding air. That is warm enough to melt the snow surrounding the plant! *True = Skunk Cabbage*

This bird goes to great lengths to attract a mate. At breeding time, the male builds a house of sticks. He then decorates the stick house with shells, feathers, flowers, clothespins, jewelry, and anything else that catches his eye. The males prefer the color blue, and will often use berry juice and charcoal sticks to paint the inside of his house. Females then choose their mate by the house they like the best, even though the young are raised in a nest built by the female. *True = Satin Bower Bird*

This plant has a unique method of seed dispersal. When the sensitive seedpods are disturbed, a small spring inside the pod shoots the tiny seeds 15-20 feet away from the plant. *False (though Jewel Weed, or Touch-me-not, does disperse seeds this way, they only go about 1 –4 ft.)*

When it is time to find a mate, the males in this frog species must move quickly. The male climbs to the top of a tree on a windy day and leaps into the air. Its flattened body and large webbed feet allow it to glide through the air for almost a half-mile. *False*