

UNIT
19

Funny Feeders

Many **toads** have long tongues. They can shoot them out extremely quickly to catch their food, usually an insect. Then they bring their tongue – and the insect – back into their mouth.



Vultures don't kill animals. They circle around waiting for an animal to die, or be killed. Then they swoop down to feed.

Many insects eat plants, but **Venus fly traps** are plants that attack insects! They trap the insect in their leaves, which close together until the insect dies.



Some plants live off other plants. They feed off the other plant without killing it. We call these parasites. **Mistletoe**, which grows in the branches of trees, is one of these.

Mosquitoes and some other small creatures, like **fleas**, are also parasites. They live on other animals (including people sometimes!) by making tiny holes through the skin and sucking blood.



Do you remember?

Copy these sentences into your book. Think of a sensible word to fill each gap.

1. Some toads have long _____.
2. Vultures wait for animals to _____.
3. Venus fly traps catch _____ in their leaves.
4. Mistletoe grows in _____.
5. Mosquitoes and fleas are both called _____.

More to think about

Write a sentence to answer each question.

1. Why are vultures good for the environment?
2. Why would it be bad for the parasite if it killed the plant or animal it lives on?
3. Why is mistletoe becoming a rare plant in many places?
4. If you squash a mosquito it leaves a red mark. Why?



Now try these

Imagine you are a creature that has just arrived from outer space. You have never seen humans before. Write a report about how these strange human creatures feed. Start like this, or make up your own beginning if you prefer:

First they dig up funny lumpy things from the ground, which they put into boiling water. They also put other plants in hot water and watch them go all squidgy and squashy.