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THE EXTINCTION OF
PITCHER
PLANTS

The extinction of Pitcher Plants:

Tara was lost in reverie when a loud noise shook her out of it. She looked out of the window and saw a huge tamarind tree had been cut down to make way for a concrete structure.

Hi!
I am Tara



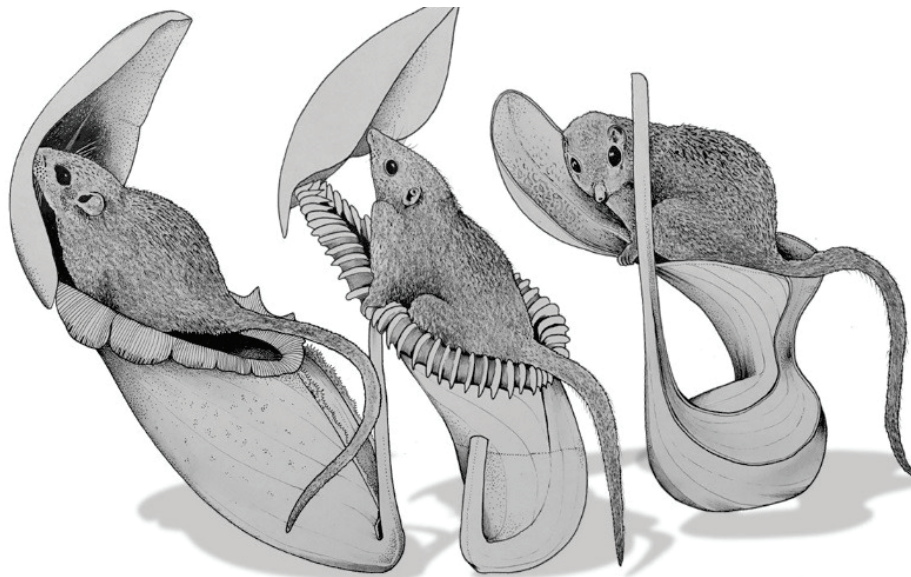
"What a loss to the environment," she thought ruefully. Maybe one day tamarind trees would disappear, just like the pitcher plants in the jungles of Borneo. Climate change could make some species extinct by 2050 - that was alarming! Tara began to



imagine the intricate and beautiful pitcher-shaped leaves of the pitcher plant, which trapped and digested insects.

If she wanted to see these plants, she would have to travel all the way to the rainforests of Borneo, which are one of the oldest in the world at 140 million years old. Unfortunately, in the next

century, the temperature was predicted to increase by 1 to 5 degrees Celsius, and since plants can't move to cooler regions like animals, they will perish. Suddenly, she remembered that tree shrews fed on the sticky, sweet substance exuded by the pitcher plant's lid-edge, and in turn, provided droppings that serve as the main source of fertilizer for the plants, a valuable source of nitrogen. Will the cute tree shrews also disappear along with the pitcher plants? It seemed that everyone in nature helped each other and depended on each other for survival.



Shrews providing droppings that serve as fertilizer for the pitcher plants.

New Words

1. **Reverie**- a state of pleasantly lost in thoughts, almost like

dreaming.
2. **Ruefully**- expressing sorrow or regret.

3. **Predicted**- Stated as likely to happen in the future; forecast.

Find other new and interesting words for each other, and write their meanings in your notebooks.

Comprehension

1. What was done to the tamarind tree?
2. What is predicted to happen by 2050?
3. What type of plant is found in the jungles of Borneo?
4. How old are the rainforests of Borneo?

Take turns to make more questions like these above for each other and answer them.

Prompts Pair up

1. Pitcher Plant Hunt

Get ready for a Pitcher Plant Hunt! One of you will be the "pitcher plant" and the other will be the "tree shrew." The pitcher plant should stand with arms outstretched, forming a pitcher shape. The tree shrew should then "search" for the pitcher plant, pretending to feed on the sweet substance from the plant's lid-edge. After a minute, switch roles and repeat the activity. This will help you understand the relationship between the pitcher plant and the tree shrew.

2. Temperature Change Charades

One person in each pair will act out how a plant or animal might react to a change in temperature, while the other person tries to guess what the

change is (e.g., too hot, too cold). After a few turns, switch roles and continue playing. This activity will help you understand the effects of climate change on various species.

3. Rainforest Saving Activity

In pairs, make a plan to save pitcher plants and their rainforest friends. Talk about how to protect these plants, animals, and their homes. Draw or write your ideas on paper and show your partner. This activity helps you learn about protecting nature and what you can do to help.

Watch the video on pitcher plants using the QR code.



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