

Adaptation

Venus Flytrap Genetic Variation Activity

For UNC-TV Science Feature **Venus Flytrap**

The class should know the following terms and definitions:

Allele: Any of the alternative forms of a gene that arise from mutation

Genotype: The genetic makeup of an organism

Heterozygous genotype: A genotype that contains one copy of a dominant gene and one copy of a recessive gene (CgCr)

Homozygous genotype: A genotype that contains copies of two dominant genes, or copies of two recessive genes. (CgCg, CrCr)

Have the students explore and simulate genetic variation and natural selection in an activity that tracks an allele first through multiple generations without consideration to natural selection, then a second time with constraints of desirable and less desirable traits.

The file “Venus Flytrap Video Genetic Variation Activity” provides student instructions and follow-up analysis questions that can be projected.

The only required supplies are one penny per student.