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**SUBJECT:**

**NAME :**

**CLASS :**

Complete the following text based on the audio you listen.

**Orchids: Some of Nature's Most Interesting Flowers**

Many people think of (1) ..... as beautiful, sweet smelling, costly flowers that grow in hot tropical forests. But that is not the whole story of orchids. Some of (2)..... are found above the Arctic Circle. Some have an unpleasant smell. Not every species is lovely. And if you want to buy an orchid, it will cost a lot less than it once did.

Orchids are among the most common plant groups in the world. But some orchids that (3) .... . are in danger of disappearing from Earth. At the same time, orchids produced in factories have become an important (4) .....

Orchid industry sales are especially important to places like the Netherlands, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. People enjoy orchids as (5) ..... and cut flowers.

Orchids (6) ..... all shapes, sizes, designs, colors and color combinations. The flowers may be tiny or large. But most have some common characteristics. The sepals of an orchid form (7) ... .... the bud before the flower opens. There also are two regular petals. The third petal is the lip. Orchids share this structure with lilies and irises.

(8) ..... , orchid flowers have male and female parts joined into one structure. The structure is called the column. The column is (9) ..... quality that identifies the orchid family.

Not all orchids grow from the ground. Some are "air plants" that grow on trees. (10) .... ., however, they do not rob the trees of nutrition.

((VOA Special English Agriculture Report, written by Jerilyn Watson).