The California Ground Squirrel

Many people consider a squirrel an adorable creature. The California ground squirrel is no exception. This grayish-brown mammal with chubby cheeks is just as cute as the common gray squirrel. However, the California Ground Squirrel lives in burrows in the ground rather than in trees. The ground squirrel finds an old burrow or digs one of their own. They create several entrances and exits for safety. Many burrows are dug near one another, creating a colony of squirrels.

California Ground Squirrels live on a diet primarily made of seeds such as acorns or oats. They also eat insects, fruit, and sometimes eggs. As they forage their habitat for food, they store things they find in their cheeks. Ground squirrels spend almost all of their time on the ground searching for food. They also search during the daytime. This makes them targets for predators such as eagles and hawks, foxes, snakes, and even cats and dogs. Having multiple entrances into their burrow helps them to escape.

Not everyone thinks the California ground squirrel is adorable. Some think the ground squirrel is a pest because it eats plants and foliage in parks and people's yards.

Lexile: 800-900

Directions: Click on the correct answer for each statement.

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	opinion

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	opinion

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	opinion

The Pitcher Plant

A pitcher plant is one of the most unique and unusual plants found in the United States. Not only is it beautiful, but it comes in a wide variety of interesting colors and patterns. The pitcher plant gets its name because it is shaped like a pitcher one would use to pour water or lemonade.

The pitcher plant is a carnivorous plant. It does not get nutrients from the soil like most plants. The soil where the picture plants live lacks important nutrients the pitcher plant needs to survive. Therefore, rather than using the soil, it catches insects and "digests" them to get nutrients.

A person might wonder how a pitcher plant catches an insect. Pitcher plants produce nectar like other plants. Insects are attracted to this nectar. The rim or edge of the pitcher plant is slippery. When an insect lands on the rim, it can slip and fall into the pitcher. The slippery walls make it almost impossible to climb out. The insect is slowly digested in the liquid inside the pitcher plant.

Lexile: 800-900

Directions: Click on the correct answer for each statement.

A pitcher plant is one of the most unique and unusual plants found in the United States.	**fact**
	opinion

It does not get nutrients from the soil like most plants.	**fact**
	opinion

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	opinion

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	opinion