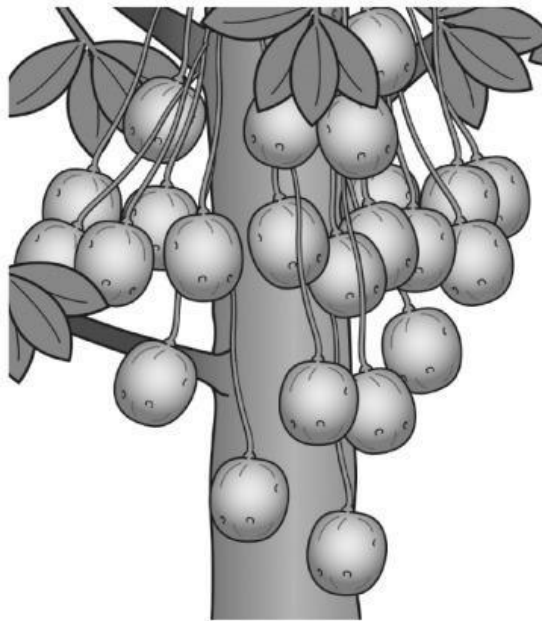


Language worksheet 2

Language development

Read about the cannonball tree, then answer the questions.

The cannonball tree grows in different countries around the world, such as India, Sri Lanka in Asia, and Guyana and Venezuela in South America. It is related to the Brazil nut tree. The cannonball tree grows for up to ten years before it starts to flower and form fruit.



The flowers grow on long branches that hang from the tree trunk. One tree can have as many as 1000 flowers on it. The flowers are big, waxy, dark pink and gold in colour with a strong, sweet scent. Fruit bats visit flowers on the trees at night to eat pollen. Bees also visit the flowers to find nectar and pollen.

The fruits of the cannonball tree are large, round and heavy. When they fall to the ground, they often explode and break open. The inside of the fruit has a bad smell – people say it smells like vomit! Animals are attracted by smell and like to eat the fruit.

- 1 Why do you think the cannonball tree is called this?

- 2 a Name two ways the flowers attract insects.

- b Describe how the flowers attract bats. Why do you think this is so?

- c What do the bats and insects do to help the cannonball tree's life cycle?

- 3 a In what way does the fruit help to disperse the seeds?

- b Explain how animals disperse the seeds of the cannonball tree.

- c How many fruits can a cannonball tree form? Explain your answer.

- 4 Does the cannonball tree grow in your country? You may have to do some research to find out.
