

HORRIBLE SCIENCE™

Imagine you're a plant - will you survive THE JUNGLE OF DEATH quiz?

1 There's a huge snail rasping its jaws on the underside of your leaves. What do you do?

- a) Make slippery slime under the leaves. The snails would slide off your leaves.
- b) Grow spikes on the undersides of your leaves to neatly kebab the snail.

2 Caterpillars are crunching your leaves. If you don't stop them they'll eat you alive. What's your plan?

- a) Drop off the affected leaves – that'll take the caterpillars with them.
- b) Make a gas. It's an SOS signal to passing wasps.

3 Insects want to eat your leaves. Which are the best creatures to help fight them off?

- a) Ants – good for attack.
- b) Rats – bigger than insects.

4 A vicious half-starved rabbit is attacking your leaves! How can you fight it off?

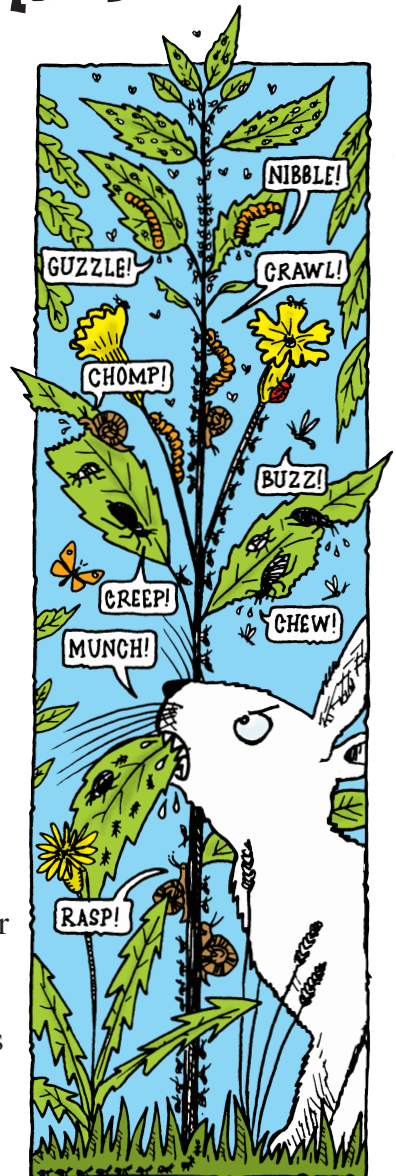
- a) Open your flowers suddenly to scare it away.
- b) Hit back. Sting the rabbit on the nose.

5 Some bugs have laid their eggs on you. In the spring the eggs will hatch and the bugs will start stuffing themselves on your tender spring leaves. What's your plan?

- a) Produce new leaves unexpectedly early or unexpectedly late so the bugs don't know when to hatch.
- c) Make poisons in the new leaves.

6 An army of aphids have come to suck juices from your leaves. Quick, what will you do?

- a) Send extra juices to your outer leaves so the aphids go and feed there. Then set up an ambush.
- b) Send extra juices to the leaves where the aphids are feeding. The aphids will drink until they swell up and go pop. It's messy but deadly.



Answers:
 1 b) If you were an Amazon water lily you'd do this to water snails. 2 b) Rose bushes defend themselves in this way. 3 a) Ants help the South American ant plant. 4 b) Stingling nettles do this. 5 a) You have to be an oak tree to make this work. 6 a) High-flying ladybirds spot the aphids on the outer leaves and eat them.

Give yourself *one* point for each correct answer.

Score 5-6. YOU HAVE CONQUERED THE JUNGLE OF DEATH. Congratulations! You'd make a blooming brilliant plant. Nothing can touch you – the insect invaders don't stand a chance.

Score 3-4. Although you have a budding talent you're still a bit green. With a bit of luck you'll live to grow another day.

Score 1-2. You won't last long in the jungle of death. You're not vicious enough – better stick to being a human.