



Student/Classroom: _____ Examiner: _____ Assessment Date: _____

Plants on the Defensive 504

Sopris West Six Minute Solution Passages

It seems strange that plants must defend themselves, but it is true. Plants have enemies. Those enemies might **(be)** animals or insects who eat plants. **(Other)** plant enemies are disease or molds **(that)** grow on plants and kill them. **(Elements)** such as frost, fire, and strong **(winds)** are harmful to plants. Plants have **(natural)** and interesting weapons to defend themselves **(from)** enemies.

Poisons are one of the **(best)** ways for plants to defend themselves. **(Many)** plants are poisonous when they are **(eaten)**. Plants like mountain laurel make grazing **(animals)** sick. Certain mushrooms are extremely deadly **(if)** they are eaten. Other plants have **(fruits)**, such as the nightshade or pokeberry, **(that)** can cause illness and, in some **(cases)**, death. Some plants poison livestock who **(may)** be grazing where they grow. The **(animals)** learn to leave these plants alone. **(Other)** plants are poisonous to the touch. **(Plants)** like poison oak and poison ivy **(cause)** skin itching.

Thorns, spines, and burrs **(protect)** other plants. Roses, cacti, and berries **(have)** prickly ways of defending themselves. Other **(plants)** give off an unpleasant smell or **(odor)**. Their bad odor discourages animals from **(eating)** them. Some plants protect themselves from **(weather)**, fire, and disease. The bark of **(many)** trees is a barrier against the **(weather)** and insects.

Desert plants have thick **(stems)** and few leaves. This helps them **(to)** store water.

Plants may look harmless. **(However)**, they have many different ways of **(protecting)** themselves. Some of these ways are **(quite)** deadly.



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It seems strange that plants must defend themselves, but it is true. Plants have enemies. Those enemies might **(be, disease, or)** animals or insects who eat plants. **(As, Have, Other)** plant enemies are disease or molds **(other, are, that)** grow on plants and kill them. **(Elements, Best, Unpleasant)** such as frost, fire, and strong **(winds, eat, pokeberry)** are harmful to plants. Plants have **(ivy, kill, natural)** and interesting weapons to defend themselves **(eating, from, some)** enemies.

Poisons are one of the **(the, barrier, best)** ways for plants to defend themselves. **(Poisons, Look, Many)** plants are poisonous when they are **(leaves, different, eaten)**. Plants like mountain laurel make grazing **(leave, animals, weather)** sick. Certain mushrooms are extremely deadly **(cause, if, may)** they are eaten. Other plants have **(fruits, protecting, protect)**, such as the nightshade or pokeberry, **(that, animals, store)** can cause illness and, in some **(alone, cases, death)**, death. Some plants poison livestock who **(mushrooms, may, bad)** be grazing where they grow. The **(animals, an, ways)** learn to leave these plants alone. **(Other, Touch, Defend)** plants are poisonous to the touch. **(Helps, Against, Plants)** like poison oak and poison ivy **(bark, burrs, cause)** skin itching.

Thorns, spines, and burrs **(protect, berries, plants)** other plants. Roses, cacti, and berries **(defending, have, enemies)** prickly ways of defending themselves. Other **(plants, a, winds)** give off an unpleasant smell or **(odor, their, they)**. Their bad odor discourages animals from **(water, eating, certain)** them. Some plants protect themselves from **(cases, weather, frost)**, fire, and disease. The bark of **(if, illness, many)** trees is a barrier against the **(weather, deadly, cacti)** and insects. Desert plants have thick **(itching, quite, stems)** and few leaves. This helps them **(to, learn, of)** store water.

Plants may look harmless. **(However, Odor, Elements)**, they have many different ways of **(protecting, oak, the)** themselves. Some of these ways are **(them, quite, it)** deadly.