Student Display Examples

Actual classroom photographs supplied by Jeanne Wages

The Cell Organelle Asylum



Everyday materials become cellular monsters. Egg-carton ribosomes represent protein builders, a brain-topped nucleus houses genetic instructions, a mitochondrial energy vampire represents ATP production, and a hungry lysosome breaks down and recycles cellular materials.

Discuss: Which visible features communicate function? The brain and monster personalities are fictional analogies, not literal organelle anatomy.

Bicephaly Two Heads One Body

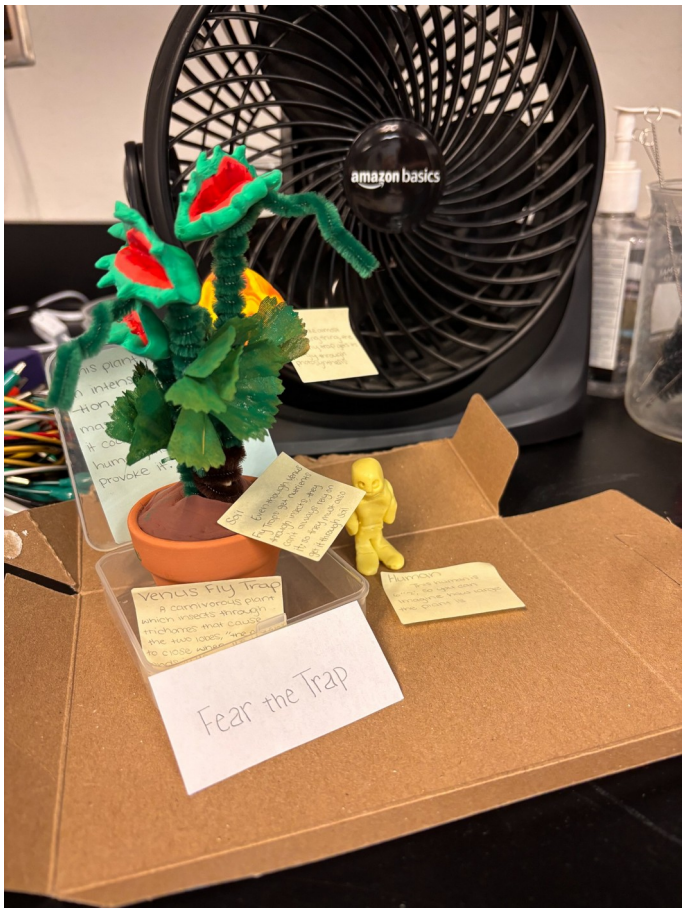


This snake models a rare developmental condition in which two heads share one body. Each head has its own brain and can respond independently. Tongue flicks collect chemical cues that help locate prey. The heads may respond differently, compete for food, or attempt to move in opposite directions, complicating feeding and escape.

Discuss: The challenge is coordinating responses, not necessarily impaired chemical sensing. A developmental anomaly is not automatically evidence of a specific genetic mutation.

Background sources: FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, https://www.flickr.com/photos/myfwc/50540505582/ ; California Academy of Sciences, Snake Sense Scents, https://www.calacademy.org/sites/default/files/assets/docs/sah_snakes_snake_sense_scents_210722.pdf

The Carnivorous Greenhouse



Clay, pipe cleaners, and artificial leaves transform a Venus flytrap into a botanical monster. Real flytraps use modified leaves with sensitive trigger hairs to capture prey, obtaining nutrients such as nitrogen while making sugars through photosynthesis. The oversized traps and tiny human add fiction; real Venus flytraps cannot eat people.

Discuss: Which features show prey capture, and which show photosynthesis? Prey supplies mineral nutrients rather than replacing photosynthesis.

Background: OpenStax Biology 2e, Nutritional Adaptations of Plants, https://openstax.org/books/biology-2e/pages/31-3-nutritional-adaptations-of-plants

Tissue Culture Gone Wrong



These simulated petri dishes tell the fictional story of an attempt to grow human tissues, including bone, with unsettling results. Miniature bones, eyes, and spooky details create the horror scene. Growing living cells requires carefully controlled conditions, and producing organized tissues is more complex than placing cells in a dish. These are craft models, not actual tissue cultures.

Discuss: Which details represent actual tissue biology, and which are fictional? Do not interpret the decorations as a realistic image of a living culture.