

3. Answers will vary. Students should understand that ferns depend on an abundant supply of water to sustain their life cycles.

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1. Large size allows a plant to claim a larger share of nutrients and water and increases its exposure to the Sun.
2. Large size makes a plant more vulnerable to predators and might make it more difficult for the plant to thrive when nutrients are scarce.



1. A giant fern can grow more than 22 m tall. How might size give it an advantage over smaller plants?
2. Size is often an adaptation to an ecosystem. How might larger size be a disadvantage?
3. Ferns are found mainly in damp, tropic areas. What conclusion might you draw from this fact?