

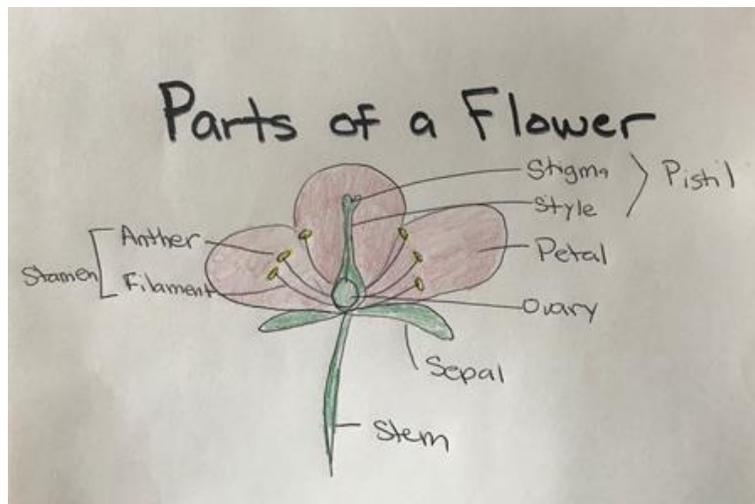


Pollinator Activity

Flower Dissection

What you need:

- Flowers (lilies work great, but any backyard bloom will do!)
- Scissors
- Hand lens or magnifying glass (optional)
- Your journal to document your finding



Background:

Spring is the perfect time to stop and take a close-up look at flowers. We are drawn to the beauty of flowers and the way they make us feel. Think of a bright daffodil or sunflower which makes you smile or a bouquet of flowers presented to a loved one. But why do plants spend energy making flowers? The purpose of flowers is to help the plants reproduce, by being pollinated to produce a seed. Flowers attract bees, flies, butterflies, hummingbirds and even some bats to help with pollination. These pollinators carry pollen from one plant to another which helps the plant with it's ultimate goal: to make a seed. You can start to see these different parts of a flower through a little closer investigation, let's dissect!

Flower Dissection:

1. Find a flower!
2. Start by taking a close look at your flower and draw what it looks like, maybe even draw the whole plant you picked your flower from. Make some observations about your flower. What do you notice? What color is it? Does it have a scent? Where did you find it?
3. Start by carefully removing the petals from the stem and sepal. Keep track of each piece as you separate them.
4. Get to the center of the flower and gently dissect the male parts – the stamen. Can you see the separate parts. The anther and filament?
5. Look for the female parts – the pistil. Can you see the separate parts for the stigma and style?
6. If you have a magnifying glass, take a closer look. What do you see?
7. Journal about what you found!
8. Share your finding! Post us your flower dissections and tell us about what you saw.



