



Dissect and Draw a Flower



WHAT YOU NEED:

- One or more flowers
- A butter knife or scissors
- Cup of water
- Paper or paper plates
- Pencil or pen
- Colored pencils or something to draw with (optional)
- Magnifying glass (optional)
- Tweezers (optional)

HOW TO:

1. Find a flower and ask permission before picking it from someone's garden. (Any flower works – dandelions are especially interesting because they are made of many tiny florets.)
2. Place the flower on paper and observe it closely. Identify and label as many parts as you can, such as *petals*, *stem*, *leaves*, *stamen*, and *pistil*. Draw or photograph the flower.
3. Carefully dissect the flower using your hands, scissors, tweezers, or a butter knife. **Remove petals and leaves first.** Separate and label the different parts as you go. If you don't know a part, label it "other."
4. Look for the pistil (*stigma*, *style*, *ovary*) and stamen (including the *anther* and *filament*).
5. For dandelions, look for the green *involucre* and fuzzy white *pappus*.
6. Observe your dissected flower with a magnifying glass if possible. Take notes and draw what you see.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

You are learning how to dissect a living thing. You are learning about flowers as you take one apart and draw what you see. You are discovering how flowers function, grow, and reproduce. Try to dissect some other plants (leaves, vegetables, fruits, seeds) and see what you discover.



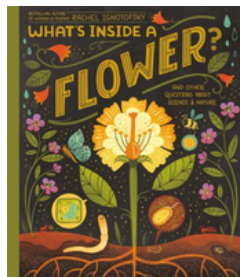
FUN FACT

Sunflowers help to absorb and take contaminants out of soil. When planted, they can clean up pesticides, petroleum, pollutants from oil spills, and vehicle emissions metals like lead, cadmium, and arsenic. They can even absorb radioactive elements and have been planted at the nuclear sites of Chernobyl and Fukushima.

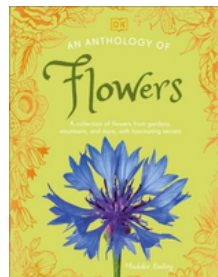
Related Books:



Flora Culture
by Christin Geall



What's Inside a Flower?
and Other Questions
About Science & Nature
by Rachel Ignotofsky



An Anthology of Flowers
by DK

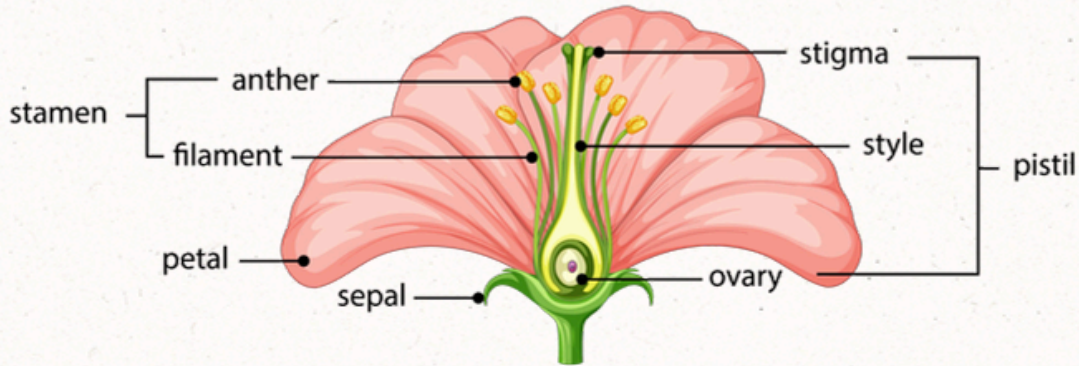


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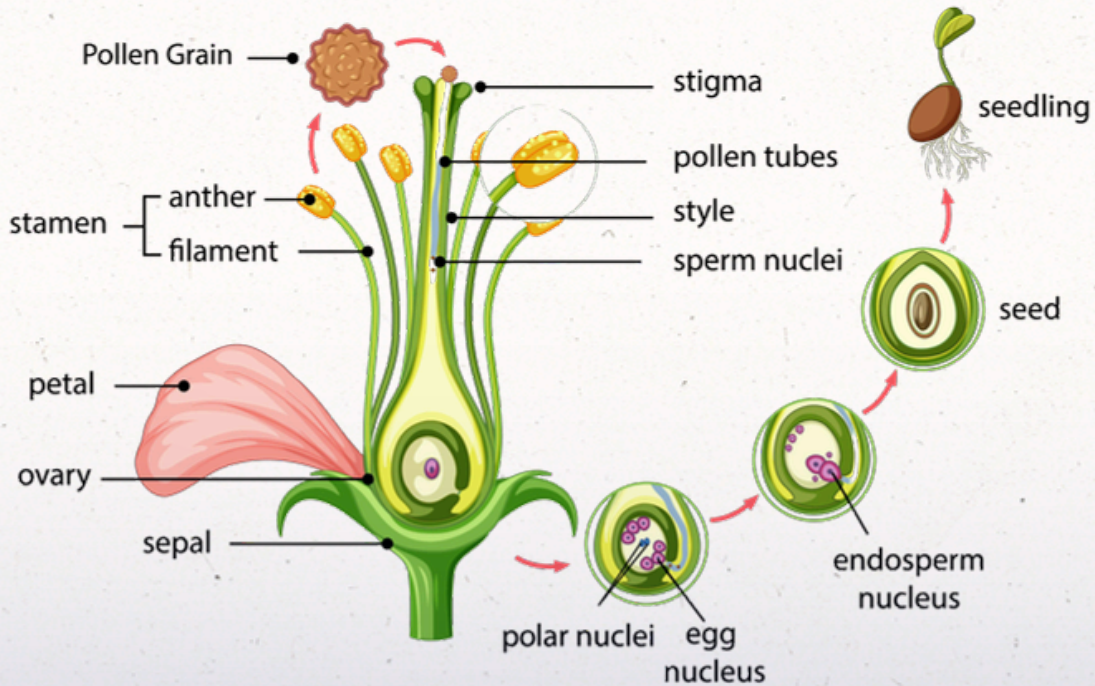


Dissect and Draw a Flower

Parts of a flower



Pollination of Flowering Plants



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