Flower Dissection Activity

For this week's activity, we will dissect a flower. Dissection is the process of cutting or taking something apart to examine it. We filmed our flower dissection for you, but in case you are not able to watch the video, we've described the process here.



The Main Parts of a Flower

A flower, like most other plants, has **roots**, a **stem** and **leaves**. Then it also has a... well, **flower**! In English, we can use the word flower for the entire small plant, but we also use the word flower for the part of the plant that produces a seed. That plant part has lots of other parts to it, all with their own names. Let's learn them all this week!



First, a flower has **petals**. Petals look like leaves, and they are very colourful. They make up the outside of flower. The petals are there to protect the inside parts of the flower and to attract pollinators!

We chose to dissect one of the tulips growing behind the nursery. A tulip is an example of a **complete** or **perfect** flower, because it has both male and female parts, just like the flower in the diagram below.



Anther Filament

The male part of a flower is called the **stamen**. It is made up of two smaller parts. The bottom, stem-like part is called the **filament**, and its purpose is to hold up the top part. The top part is called the **anther**, and its job is to hold the pollen. You can see the pollen on the anther as very small, yellow grains.

The female part of a flower is called the **pistil**. It is made up of three parts! The top most part is called the **stigma**, and it is the part of the flower that catches the pollen from the anther. You can remember it by thinking about it as sticky – a sticky stigma! The middle part of the pistil is



called a **style**. The style is the stem-like part of the pistil, just like the filament is the stem-like part of the stamen. The bottom-most part of the pistil is called the **ovary**, and its job is to produce ovules and house them while they grow and develop into seeds. Ovaries mature into fruit!

Activity

Head outside and find a flower. This could be any flower you want, but if it is growing in someone's garden, please ask permission before picking it!

Once you have your flower, take it apart piece by piece, examining each piece as you go. Make observations about all the parts of the flower. What colours do you see? What does each part look like? How does each feel? How does each smell? How many leaves, petals or stamens does your flower have? If you have an adult helper, ask him or her to make a cut down the pistil. Can you see any ovules inside? Make note of as many details as possible. When you are finished making your notes, you can make a little poster using them and the parts of your flower.

Next, compare your flower to the tulip that we dissected. How are they the same? How are they different?

We hope you have fun with this activity! We'd love for you to share your findings with us by <u>Facebook</u> or <u>email</u>!

Diagram of a Flower



Stamens

- yellow filaments are very soft
- yellow anthers are a bit rough with pollen stuck on Ithere are 6

Pistil

- ⊕ female part
- e yellow stigma that curves down in 3 parts
- Stigma looks bumpy or fuzzy
- I green style and ovary with lots of ovules inside (the ovules look like tiny beads and will turn into seeds)

Petals

- white with bright yellow middles and ends I yellow ends that attach to stem are much darker
 - than the yellow middles
- If feel very soft
- there are 6

Leaf

- · green
- Iong with pointy tip
- (B) sides roll in a bit
- If feels smooth, ridge running down middle
- ⊕ small stripes running length-wise
- ③ also smells like grass

Stem

- Iong, skinny, round, and green
- Issues a small holes running along the length
- ④ feels a little sticky
- smells like grass