

INV. 2 ACTIVITY—PARTS OF A FLOWER (PAGE 1 OF 2)

Review

If we had been in school working on our Structures of Life module, we would have grown bean pods hydroponically, in water. You would have watched the growth and development of our bean seeds. One structure that you would eventually notice is flowers. Since we cannot rapidly simulate this at home, we are going to look at flowers we can find outside.

Investigation

Today you will go outdoors and look for flowers. Before we do that, ask yourself—What is the role of a flower? Jot down some of your thoughts in your notebook. “I think a flower...”

Now go outside and search for flowers such as lilies, tulips, or flowers on cherry, apple, or dogwood trees with structures you can study. If you live in northern climates you may have crocuses coming up, some of the earliest flowers. If you have permission to pick one flower, go ahead and do so, if not, you can sit right down next to it, with your science notebook and do the following. (Caution, bees do spend a lot of time on flowers so keep an eye out—they are not predators so unless you bother them, they are not interested in you. In fact, watch them from a distance and see what they do. Are any other living things visiting the flowers?)

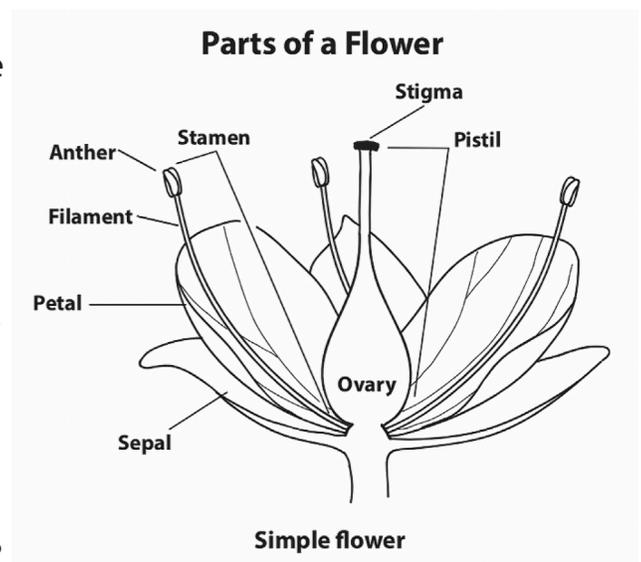
Look carefully at your flower—observe it and the parts of the flower. What color is it? What color are the parts? What is the texture of the parts inside the flower?

Now look at this diagram and see if you can identify the parts on this diagram in the flower you are observing. Do you see stamen? How many? A pistil? What is the texture of the anthers? The stigma?

Draw the parts of your flower in your notebook. If you were able to pick your flower, you can take it apart and draw and label each part. Do you see any yellowish or orange powder? On which parts? This is pollen.

As the days carry on, continue to observe other outdoor flowers. Do they all have the same parts? Does a dandelion have these parts?

Head back inside when you are done with your drawing and observation.



(Continued on the next page)

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Read interactive e-Book on FOSSweb—FOSS Science Resources: Structures of Life

Login to FOSSweb, click on Structures of Life and go to the Media Library. Click on the eBook and use the Table of Contents to go to the article called “Life Cycles.”

First look at all the images from page 26 to 33. Think about what each page is going to be about. Then go ahead and read the article. Answer these questions in your science notebook:

1. What is a life cycle?
2. Look at the life cycle of the bush bean on page 27. After the flowers, what grows on the plant?
3. Describe the life cycle of one of the animals.
4. Describe the life cycle of a plant.