

Corpse Flower

Vocabulary

corpse – a dead body

foul – having a bad smell

putrid - having a rotten smell

stench – a bad smell

whiff – a smell; (v.) to smell

rotting – going bad; decaying

stinky – having a bad smell

emit (v.) – to send out

Reading: Fill in the blanks with words from below.

Recently, a huge crowd gathered at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Colorado to witness the blooming of a rare flower. The flower's scientific name is titan arum, but its nickname is "corpse flower." When it 1. _____, which happens only once every few years, it emits a foul, putrid stench like the smell of garbage.

In spite of the unpleasant 2. _____, people who came to see the corpse flower were full of enthusiasm and excitement. The crowd clapped and cheered as if they were attending a sporting event.

"It's human nature that we all want to smell something bad, I guess," said one

3. _____ at the garden. "You know when someone smells something bad and they stuff it in your face? That's what you get."

Visitors hoping to get a whiff of the stinky plant got what they came for. The flower bloomed as predicted, and stayed in bloom for several days. People described the smell in various ways. Some said it smelled like dead mice, while others compared it to 4. _____ cabbage. They nicknamed the plant "Stinky."



At over 10 feet (3.33 meters) tall, the corpse flower is the largest flower in the world. However, like the giant panda, it is an 5. _____ species. Researchers hope that events like the one in Denver will raise public awareness and help preserve this unique flower for future generations.

odor | blooms | endangered | scientist | rotting

Matching Activity: Idioms related to smell

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. wake up and smell the coffee | a. to take time to enjoy life |
| 2. smell a rat | b. to smell really bad |
| 3. smell fishy | c. pay attention to what's going on |
| 4. stop and smell the roses | d. seem suspicious |
| 5. stink to high heaven | e. to sense that someone has done something wrong |

Extension: Sentence Completion

Fill in the blanks using words and expressions from the Word Bank below.

1. Something _____. I think he's lying.
2. Life is short, so you should _____ every once in a while.
3. The rotten egg emitted a _____ stench.
4. The undertaker buried the _____.
5. Pee-yew! You _____. Why don't you take a bath?
6. Get a _____ of this new perfume.

Word Bank

putrid smells fishy corpse stop and smell the roses

whiff stink to high heaven

Discussion

1. In your opinion, which smells are the best? Which are the worst?
2. Would you like to see the corpse flower? Why or why not?
3. Rate these smells in order of your preference, from best to worst:

Best = 1 Worst = 10

the smell of rain	_____
the smell of gasoline	_____
the smell of bread	_____
the smell of leather	_____
the smell of coffee	_____
the smell of garlic	_____
the smell of babies	_____
the smell of a book	_____
the smell of a wet dog	_____
the smell of a new car	_____

4. Do you take time to appreciate the small things in life?
How often do you stop and smell the roses?
5. What is your favorite flower?
6. What is your favorite perfume or cologne?
7. Do you have a good sense of smell?
8. What's the best way to get rid of a stinky smell in your house?
9. What would you do if your neighbor owned a corpse flower?