Biology 12 Flower Structures Narration Transcript

To get a complete understanding of the plant reproduction process, you will first need to familiarize yourself with the structural parts of flowers.

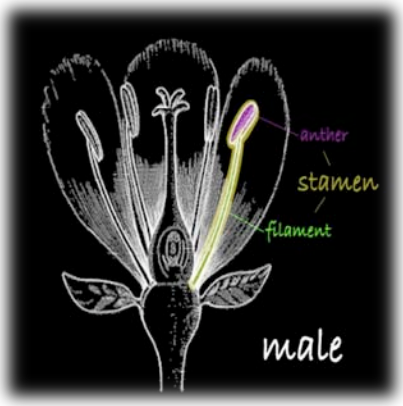
Like humans, flowers come in many different sizes, shapes and colors but that all share the same common structural parts that play a functional role in the reproduction process.

Perhaps the first thing that you notice about a flower is the colored and elaborate **petals**. Petals use this strategy to attract pollinators to the flower.

Directly below the petals are the **sepals**, which are usually green but may be colored in some plants. Sepals function to cover the petals during the bud stage in early flower development.

Have you ever wondered what the other 'stringy' parts of a flower were? These represent the reproductive parts of the flower.

The **stamen** is the male reproductive structure that produces the pollen. The stamen is composed of the **anther** (which produces the pollen), and the **filament** (which is a thin stalk that supports the anther).



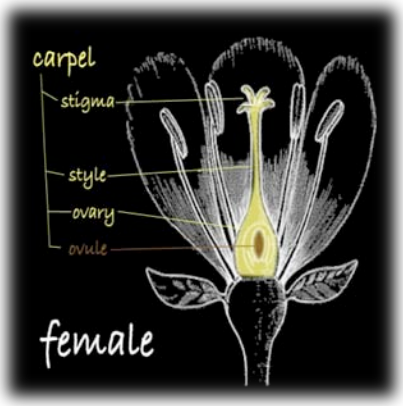
The female reproductive structure is known as the **carpel** and is often pear-shaped and located in the centre of the flower. The carpel is composed of FOUR PARTS: the stigma, the style, the ovary, and the ovule.

The **stigma** is the receptive tip where the pollen is placed. It is often sticky and hairy.

The **style** is the tissue connecting the stigma to the ovary. The pollen needs to move through the style to reach the ovule.

The **ovary** is located at the base of the carpel and protects the ovules. If fertilization is successful, the ovary will develop into the fruit.

The **ovule** contains the embryo sac, which develops inside the ovary. Depending on the plant, there may be more than one ovule per ovary. If fertilization is successful, the ovules will develop into seeds.

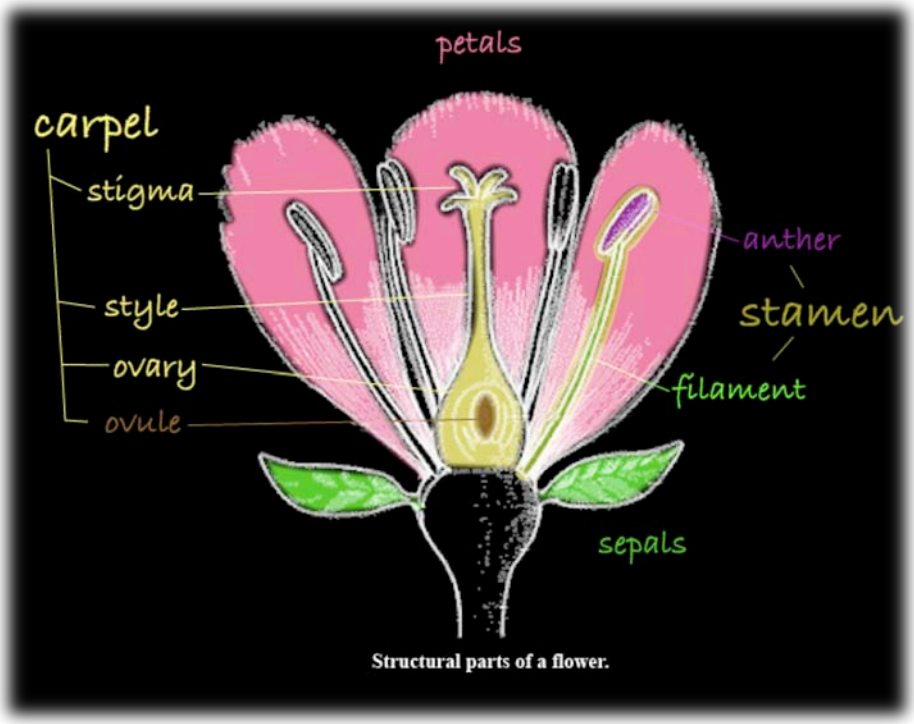


Whilst different types of flowers do not always look the same, they all share these same structures.

Here, you see a common lily. The male and female reproductive structures are mostly visible in this flower. However, lets dissect away some of the petals and take a closer look at these structures.

Another flower that you are probably familiar with is the tulip. Whilst the reproductive structures are not always as visible as in the lily, a dissected version once again shows the same structures.

The reproductive structures of the *Freesia* are perhaps a little more difficult to see without dissecting away some of the petals. However, once again you will recognize the same structures.



Structural parts of a flower.

Now that you know a little bit more about the reproductive structures of flowering plants, not only does a whole new world of observation and adventure open up, but you can impress your friends and family.