

What makes a Flower?

Flower Dissection Lab

Objectives:

The main objective of this lab is to understand the parts of a flower from all the different body parts to its reproductive parts. This will be done by learning about each part of the flower and the purpose of each part. You will learn how to take observation notes on flowers and carefully cut apart the pieces of two different flowers. At the end you will compare the two different flowers and learn how flowers' body parts can be similar and different.

Background:

Flowers are important as they help sustain life on the planet. Flowers attract many pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, beetles, wasps and even flies. These pollinators will go from flower to flower spreading the pollen of the flower to a large variety of flowers and plants. With the help of the pollinators it helps create a strong ecosystem. However, to understand the process of pollination we need to know the different parts of a flower. In this lab, we will break down and cut apart the different parts of a flower to get a better understanding of each.

Materials:

- Two different types of fresh flowers with intact reproductive parts
 - Recommended flowers: roses, tulips, and lilies
 - Flowers to avoid: daisies and asters
- Paper plates
- Scissor
- Tweezer
- Paper
- Pencil

Procedure:

- 1) Setting up Plates
 - a) Reproductive plate
 - i) Spilt the plate into two halves: Female and Male
 - b) Body plate
 - i) Spilt the plate into four sections: Petals, Stem, Leaves, and Other
 - ii)
- 2) Cutting up the flower into sections
 - a) Reproductive parts
 - i) Cut off the male parts (stamens)
 - (1) Cut of the anthers
 - (a) Place them in the Male section

- (2) Cut of the filaments
 - (a) Place them in the Male section
 - ii) Cut off the female parts (pistil)
 - (1) Cut of the stigma
 - (a) Place them in the Female section
 - (2) Cut of the style
 - (a) Place them in the Female section
 - (3) Cut off the ovary
 - (a) Place them in the Female section
 - b) Begin with separating the individual petals
 - i) Place these petals all into the Petals section
 - c) Move on to removing the leaves
 - i) Place these leaves into the Leaves section
 - d) If your flower has thorns remove the thorns from the stem
 - i) Place the thorns into the Other section
 - e) Cut off the Receptacle of the Flower
 - i) The receptacle is the round top of the flower that acts as the flower's "head"
 - ii) Once removed place into the Other section
 - f) Place stem into the stem section once everything has been removed
- 3) Flower Comparisons (Sections' Table Worksheet)
 - a) Write down the number of things in each section of the Flower's body plate
 - b) Write down the number of things in each section of the Flower's reproductive plate