

Flower Dissection

Duration: 15 – 30 min

Suggested Age: 5 – 12 (with parent supervision)

Supplies

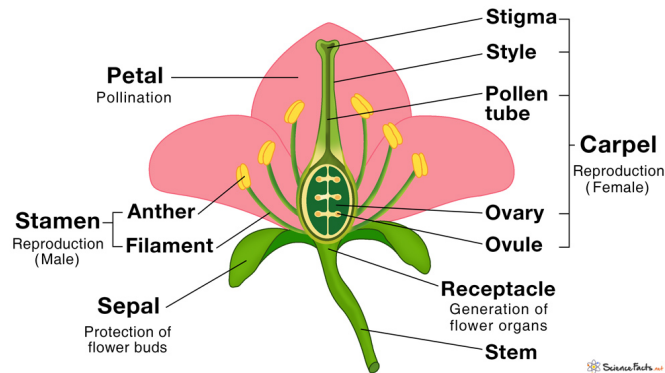
- Fresh flower(s)
- Sharp knife or scissors
- Magnifying glass

Steps (see diagram on the next page to reference parts of the flower)

- Pick a flower from your yard or a nearby outdoor area and bring it to a well-lit area for examination.
- Examine the flower before dissection. What do you see? Can you identify the different parts of the flower?
 - Optional: If you would like to draw the flower at this time you can compare your drawing now to a drawing of the parts of the flower after it has been dissected.
- Begin dissection!
 - Remove the sepals and the petals by pulling them down toward the stem. Look at them with the magnifying glass. Do they look different? What is their texture?
 - Remove the flower's stamens. Break them or cut them off of the stem. Is there pollen on them? Examine the pollen with the magnifying glass. Can you tell what shape the pollen grain is?
- Lay out the different parts of the flower
 - How many petals are there? How many stamen are there? Can you tell the stamen apart from the stigma?
 - Optional: Draw the parts of the flower that you have dissected.
- Reflect:
 - What do you notice about this flower by dissecting it that you did not notice when the flower was whole?

- Use the definitions below to discuss how the function of the different parts of the flower that you dissected.

Parts of a Flower



Function of the Parts of the Flower:

- Petal – brightly colored to attract insects
- Stigma – Inside flower, sticky – pollen grains stick to it when a pollinator brushes past
- Sepal – protect a developing flower and keep it from drying out
- Stamen – the part of the flower that produces pollen
- Stem – keeps the leaves in the light and provides a place for a plant to keep its flowers and fruits

Explore Further

- See the “Monocot or Dicot?” activity on our [website](#) for information about how to categorize the flower you dissected.
- Think about pollen! How does it move to help flowers reproduce?
<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinators#importance>
- Use Google’s reverse image search to upload a picture of the flower you dissected (before dissection) and find out more about the type of flower you dissected. <https://images.google.com/>
- If you chose a wildflower or would like to learn more about them here is a link to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center which has a great glossary of wildflower types.
https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=ss_01