

ART ADVENTURES

At-Home

Art

Project:

Flower Petal Suncatchers



This At-Home Art Project is an exploration of plants and flowers. There are approximately 400,000 different kinds of flowering plants in the world! What kinds of flowers have you seen before? Which ones are your favorite?

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Look at Art:



Flowers by a Pond with Frogs, Giuseppe Recco (Italian), 17th century

What do you notice about this painting? How does it make you feel? If you were in this landscape, what do you think it would smell like? Describe the flowers that you see. There are daffodils, anemones, cup flowers, and tulips. In the 1600s, more than 400 years ago, tulips were one of the most popular flowers in Europe. They were even more valuable than gold! Tulips originally came from Turkey and were imported to the Netherlands.



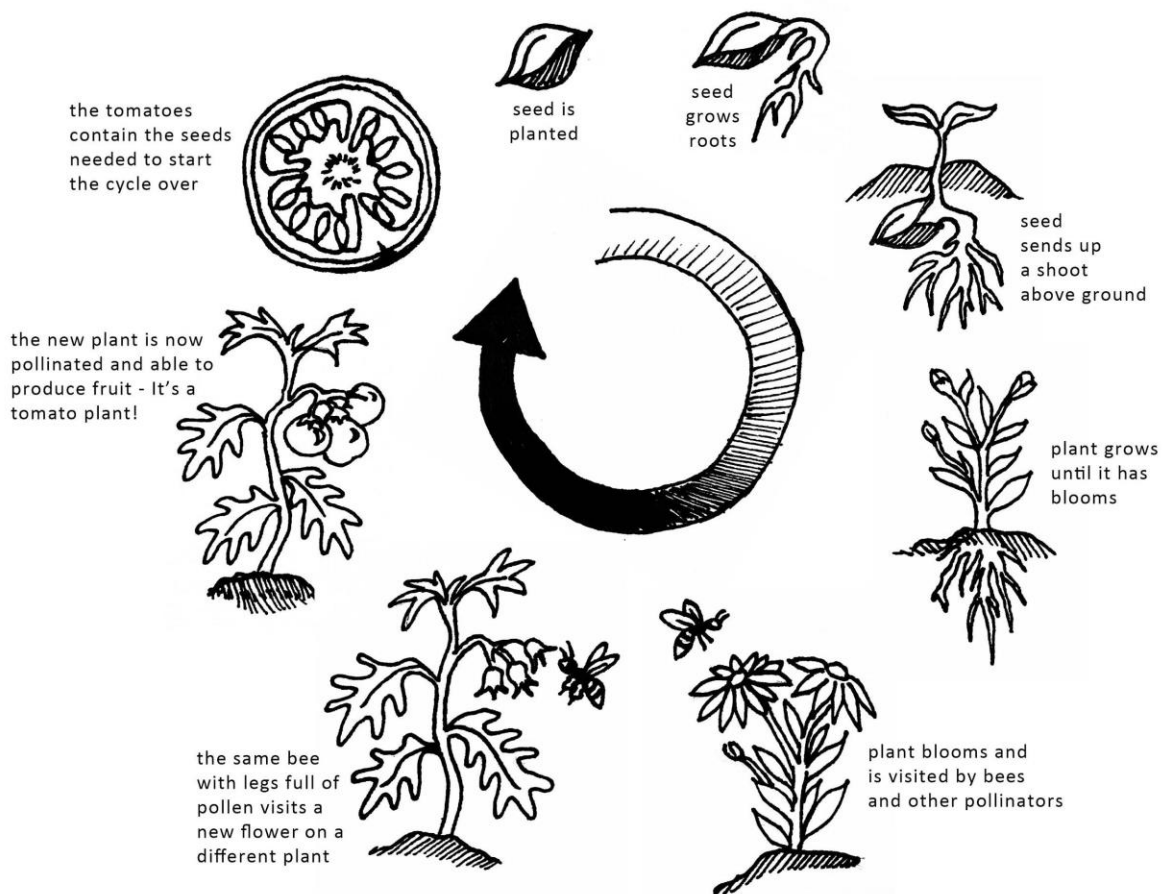
Botanists, or scientists that study plants, bred tulips to make them grow in many different colors. This means that they would pollinate the tulips by hand (instead of using insects) to make color combinations they thought were desirable. Learn more about pollination below.

Examples of tulips that are still grown today:



Did You Know?!

Flowers are an important part of the natural world and are the reason that so many different kinds of fruits and vegetables can grow. The life cycle of a flower is complex. First a seed is planted in soil. The seed germinates, sending roots down into the soil and sprouting a seedling above the soil. The plant grows until it is ready to flower. The flowers bloom, attracting bugs and bees to pollinate it. Every flower creates pollen. Pollen is usually a bright yellow powder. Pollen is what may cause allergies for humans when it gets into our noses and makes our eyes itchy! Insects, such as butterflies, bees, flies, dragonflies, praying mantis, and caterpillars are all pollinators. Pollen sticks to these insects' bodies when they visit a flower. When they explore another flower, the pollen rubs off their bodies and pollinates the new flower. Once the flower is pollinated, the plant can begin to reproduce. For some plants this will eventually lead to making a fruit or vegetable. For all plants it leads to the production of seeds. Making seeds is most important to a plant's survival because it allows the life cycle to continue.



CHALLENGE:

What kinds of flowers can you find in your neighborhood? Which pollinator insects can you identify? Snap a few pictures or sketch the objects that you discover.

Nature Scavenger Hunt:

Flowers, like the ones in the painting above, are an important part of nature. One way to explore our natural environment is to use our senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch.

This activity is best done outside. This activity does NOT need to be done all at once. You may try exploring a different sense each day. Collect the objects you find, take pictures, sketch, or make rubbings (this is done by placing an object under a piece of paper and rubbing a crayon across the paper).

When you find something new, ask yourself: What do I see? What do I think about this object? What do I wonder about it?

When you finish your nature scavenger hunt, think about the similarities and differences of the objects you found. Which one was your favorite, and why? What did you learn about the natural environment?

Look for...

- Thin tree
- Thick tree
- A leaf bigger than your face
- A cloud shaped like an animal
- Five (5) of the same thing

Listen for...

- An animal sound
- The wind
- Something crunchy
- Something to make music with
- A human-made sound

Smell...

- Grass
- Dirt
- Flowers

Taste...

- Something an animal would eat
- Something that looks like candy
- Finish your scavenger hunt with a picnic!

Touch...

- Something bumpy
- Something smooth
- Something hard
- Something soft
- Something wet

Make Art: Flower Petal Suncatcher

Supplies:

- Found flower petals and natural materials
- Two (2) pieces of contact paper or self-laminating sheets, each six by nine inches (6 x 9 in.)
- An 8 x 10 in. paper frame with a 5 x 7 in. window picture (purchased or made from cardboard)
- String

Steps:

1. Go on a walk to collect flower petals, leaves, bits of grass, petals, ferns, or other flat natural materials. (You can do this while you're on your nature scavenger hunt!) Sticks and things that poke do not work well for this activity. (But collect them for your nature collection or observational drawings!)
2. Gather the rest of your supplies and set up a work station outside.
3. Take a piece of contact paper and peel off the backing. Lay it sticky side up on your work surface.
4. Press your frame onto the contact paper, making sure that the frame covers all its edges.
5. Next arrange your flower petals and greenery on your work surface or a plain piece of paper. Move the pieces around until you are happy with your design.
6. One at a time, press the petals and greenery onto the contact paper. Try to not let anything else touch the contact paper because it will stick.
7. When you have finished adding to your design, peel the backing off the second piece of contact paper and press it on top of your design. Remember to make sure all the edges attach to the frame. The frame should be sandwiched between the two pieces of contact paper.
8. Decorate the frame with bits of natural paper and other things.
9. Tie a piece of string through the hole at the top of your frame to make a hanging loop. If you do not have a hole at the top-center of your frame, use a hole punch to make one.
10. Hang your flower petal suncatcher in the window. Notice how the colors of light shine through the leaves and petals.

How does the light of your suncatcher compare to the dark sunset sky of the painting above? How do the flowers that you found compare to the flowers in the artwork? Use your

observation skills to notice when different flowers bloom throughout the summer. It is always a different flower's turn to shine!

SHARE: Send pictures of your artwork to familyprograms@thewalters.org so that we can add them to our online gallery. Please include your first name and age.

REFLECT: Tell us about your experience by completing this quick [survey](#).



Flowers by a Pond with Frogs
Giuseppe Recco (Italian, 1634-1695)
1670-1679

This is a painting of an outdoor scene with flowers. It was made using dark colors in the background and bright colors for the flowers. The difference between the light and dark colors creates **contrast** between the flowers and the background. What colors would you choose for your picture? How do those colors **contrast** with each other? The original painting has 3 frogs in it. Think of an animal to add to this picture and draw it!