

Information for teachers / parents

Parts of a flower



Why use my version rather than others available online?

There are LOADS of line drawings of cross-sections of flowers online. They're all very similar. What children often find tricky though, is being presented with the whole thing at once. It's a lot of labels and info to take in in one go.

My version is newly created to be bright & funky. The ppt works as a click-by-click animation revealing each part & label step-by-step. I have not done it as a film or added my own voice, so that you as the adult can take it at the speed that suits your child(ren).

Equipment

The filmed bits are me just taking apart several different types of flowers. Do please try this yourself. I deliberately did not use scalpel or scissors – you don't need any fancy equipment at all.

If you do have a magnifying lens that'd be great and one of those microscopes that clips onto your phone would be superb.

Types of flowers

The bigger the better but **avoid 'compound' flowers**: eg daisies, chrysanthemums and dandelions. These do have the same parts as simpler flower heads, but they are arranged differently. [Each tiny bit in the middle of a dandelion is a small petal, carpel & stamen]

Do NOT use classic lilies if the children are handling them. They are big and easy to see all the bits, but the pollen will stain everything.

Daffodils are perfect in the short season that they are available: very inexpensive & with large clear parts. **Tulips** are relatively cheap in spring & easy to see: try to get a few in bud so that the children can see how the green sepals change colour until they look like petals.

Smaller lilies such as **alstroemeria** are good and you get loads in a supermarket bunch. They also last pretty well, so a couple of bunches bought at the weekend will happily serve a whole class all week & beyond. They do have partially adapted sepals.

Ideally – a few different flowers so that they can explore similarities & differences.

Risk Assessment

I do recommend using fingers rather than scissors or knives.

Do not allow fingers in mouths or near faces during their exploration of the flowers – some plant parts are toxic or irritant.

Wash hands very well afterwards, using a nailbrush too.

Clear away waste to wherever you dispose of garden waste.

