

# Flower Dissection

UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

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Within this activity, expand your observation and laboratory skills by dissecting a flower. Explore its parts and uses and even create art! How is a flower different from a fish? Are there any similarities within the dissection?



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## Materials:

- A flower of your choice
- Paper
- A writing utensil
- Scissors (for dissection)
- Frame (optional)
- Heavy books (if pressing and drying flowers)
- Glue or tape (if pressing and drying flowers)

## Part 1: Observing the Flower

### Gathering Information:

Let's start by gathering information about your flower. Search the internet or books you may own to build your knowledge of flowers. Gathering information can help us answer questions we have about an organism later. Here are some questions to help you start, but you can write down your own information, too!

1. Where does your flower grow?
2. What soil does your flower like?
3. How big does your flower get? How big does the plant get?
4. When does your flower bloom?
5. What fun facts can you find about your flower?
6. What are the parts of the flower and what do they do?

### Observing the Flower

Now, let's observe the flower. Write down anything you notice about the flower. Here are a few options as to what you can start observing:

1. What color are the petals?
2. How many petals?
3. Is there a design on the petal?
4. How many leaves?
5. Are the leaves organized in a manner?
6. How big is your flower?

## Part 2: The Flower Dissection

### Procedure:

Note: The flower dissection in this activity was done using a lily. You may use any flower you like. Additionally, the anatomy of a lily may be different from other flowers. It is okay if not all parts of the flower can be found!

Step 1: Cut off a flower you want to dissect.



Step 2: Pull away any leaves that may be on the stem.



Step 3: Gently pull off the petals and sepals of the flower. You will be left with the stamen and pistil.



Step 4: Pull off the stamen of the flower. You will be left with the pistil.



Step 5: Cut off the pistil of the flower from the stem.



Step 6: Arrange and label the parts of the flower. You can be creative with this part!



## Analysis:

Now let's look at the parts of the flower.

What observations do you make? Examples of observations are:

1. There is pollen on both the stigma and the anther.
2. The petals are more pink further away from the point of connection to the plant.
3. The leaves have parallel lines.

How do you think each part helps the flower survive? Can you make connections between the parts you see and the information you gathered in the beginning? What differences and similarities are there between a plant and animal dissection?



## Parts of the Flower:

Petal: Colorful and attracts pollinators

Sepal: Outer protection for when the bud is developing

Leaf: Helps plant produce energy to grow

Stamen: Produces pollen for the plant

Filament: holds up the anther

Anther: produces the pollen

Pistil: Where the fruit and seeds are produced

Stigma: where pollen is deposited from pollinators

Style: holds up the stigma

Ovaries: where ovules are produced; eventually becomes fruit

Ovules: where seeds are produced



## Part 3: Creating Art

### Activity:

Take your flower and get creative with how you arrange it! You can label it, glue it, color it, frame it, or do your own design. Some examples are given below.

If you want to press the flower to help it last longer, it's easy! Follow our instructions on our website at <https://gacoast.uga.edu> for pressing flowers.

