

Exploration Flowers

COMPARE

What's different about these flowers? Describe each flower using words.



Orange Day Lily

How many different colors can you find on this flower?

Are some of the flowers more colorful than others?



Black Lily

How would you describe the shape of the petals?

Are the petals of each flower the same shape?



Fragrant Waterlily

How many petals does this flower have?

How would you describe the center of this flower?

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FUN FACTS



The Greek name means “Beautiful for a day” because these flowers open and die all in one day.

Orange Day Lily



These flowers have single, erect, branchless stems.

Black Lily



Its roots are planted in the mud underwater while the flower and leaves float on top of the water.

Fragrant Waterlily



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FIELD JOURNAL

Instructions

Let's go on a flower hike! Think of some places near your home where you might find some flowers.

Try to find at least three different flowers and draw a picture of each one. As you are drawing, you might want to think about these questions:

- Where did you find each flower?
- How would you describe it?
- How would you describe its stem? petals? leaves?
- Is this flower part of something else or is it growing by itself? (for example, is it part of a tree? a bush?)
- Are there more flowers like this one nearby?
- If you gently touch this flower, how does it feel? Are parts of it smooth? rough?
- What kind of flower do you think this is?

When you are finished, look at all of your pictures. How are these flowers the same? How are they different?

Your Name:	Today's Date:
What's the Weather Like?	

Draw the flowers you see in the space below.



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TIPS FOR ADULT HELPERS

General Tips

- 1. Try to ask children open-ended questions.** These kind of questions help children talk about nature. For example, a useful open-ended question could be, “How would you describe this shell?”
- 2. There are many “correct” answers.** When asking open-ended questions, remember that there is no one “correct” answer. There are many “right” answers. The goal is to have children and adults have a thoughtful discussion.
- 3. Praise thoughtful answers.** If you ask a close-ended question (such as “What animal lives in that shell?” or “What color is that bird?”), any thoughtful answer could be praised. Even if the child’s answer is inaccurate, you could say something like, “That was a great idea. You know, that is how scientists learn, by thinking and trying out different ideas.”
- 4. Start from what the child knows already.** When trying to get a thoughtful discussion going, start with what the child already knows about a topic. Use that information as a springboard for further exploration. Through discussion and exploration, children can expand and revise their knowledge about nature.
- 5. Explore together.** If the topic is new to you as an adult helper, share this information with the child. You can make guesses and explore together. All science starts off with questions, not answers.
- 6. Science IS exploration and discovery.** When you let children try out different theories, you help introduce them to the scientific method and start building research skills.
- 7. Explore a science book together.** If a child is interested in a particular topic, you might want to follow up the activity reading a science book together and writing down what you have learned about the topic.

Examples of Open Ended Questions About Flowers

When you compare and contrast different flowers, you might begin by asking questions, such as:

- How many different colors can you find on this flower?
- How would you describe the stem of this flower?
- How would you describe the shape of the petals?
- How many petals does this flower have?
- How would you describe the center of this flower?

To discuss similarities and differences, you might ask:

- How are these flowers similar to each other?
- How are they different?

You might ask the child to look carefully at the petals of the flowers, then ask these questions:

- How are the petals the same?
- How are they different?

If the child is having a hard time coming up with ideas, you might prompt her/him with more narrow questions such as:

- Are the petals of each flower the same shape?
- Do all of the flowers have the same number of petals?
- Are some of the flowers more colorful than others?