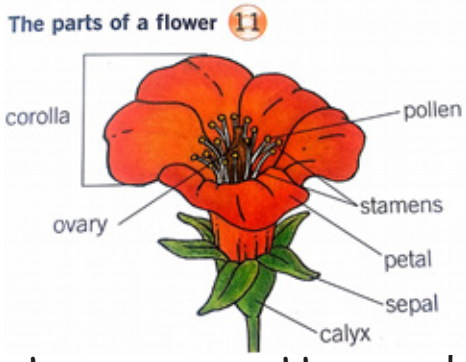
# Dive into Flowers

Objective: Have you ever looked deep inside a flower to find all its parts? Have you ever compared two different types of flowers to see how differently they are shaped and colored? In this activity, you can draw a flower, then carefully take it apart to investigate the parts on the inside. Use all your senses (especially sight, smell and feel), to make observations and develop questions about the flowers.

Background: It is amazing how flowers have adapted over years to look and smell differently. These different flower smells and colors attract animals to move the flower's pollen (pollination). Insects and other animals are attracted to the flower to eat nectar and pollen, but as they eat, they accidentally collect pollen on their body fur or feathers. Visiting the next flower, the pollen falls off and meets the flower eggs (ovules). Only then can the flower start to produce the seeds. Animals win by getting food. Flowers win by receiving help in moving their pollen. Let's look at the structure of a flower and consider how pollination works.

Note: Flowers are divided into two categories: complete and incomplete. Complete flowers have all the male (pollen producing) and female (ovule/egg producing) parts of the flower; incomplete flowers have male or female parts only. Look for flowers that are complete like lilies, geraniums, columbine, tulips, rhododendron, or bleeding hearts.




Materials:

- Flowers from the yard
- Scotch tape or glue
- Worksheet (pg. 2 and 3)
- Pencil
- Optional materials: magnifying glass, tweezers, cotton swab

# Flower Investigation

Activity:

1. Take a long look at your flower turning it all around and upside down. What do you notice?
2. If you have it, use the magnifying lens to look closely at the parts. Use the swab to see if pollen rubs off any of the parts.
3. Draw a picture of your flower as you really see it. Try to show the shape of the parts of the flower.

| Draw your flower(s) here! |
| --- |
| |

4. Close your eyes and take a long sniff of your flower. What does the smell of the flower remind you of (or maybe it doesn't have a smell)? Answer:_____
5. Carefully take the flower apart and tape or glue each part of your flower to the next page. Don't be afraid to break open the solid base (ovary) of the flower to see what's inside.
6. Invent a descriptive name for each of the parts and label the taped parts based on what it looks like or what you think the part does for the flower. Maybe a part looks like an antenna or a broom, or maybe you think it is the "egg basket part" or the "pollen puff ball part". You can label with any name you want.

# Flower Investigation

Tape your flower parts here.

7. Re-investigate a whole flower and look for the parts you taped down. Do you notice their location and how that might relate to their function?

## Questions

Did you find anything resembling eggs or seeds?

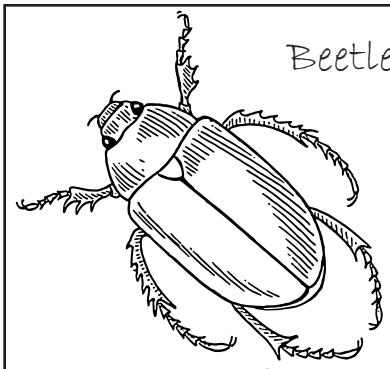
Did you find anything resembling pollen?

If a bee helps pollinate a plant, does that benefit the bee or the plant?

# Pollinator Cards

**Use these Life Lab pollinator cards to play a matching game. Cut out the cards and match the pollinator to its flower. Read the clues to help figure out the right matches!**

Beetle



Pollinates light flowers that hang near the ground.

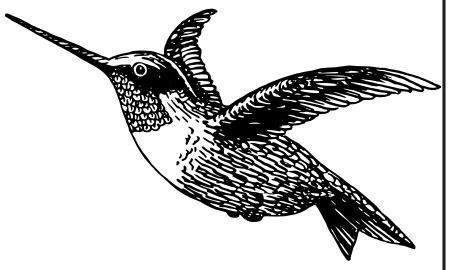
Bat

Pollinates sweet-smelling, night-blooming flowers.

Honeybee

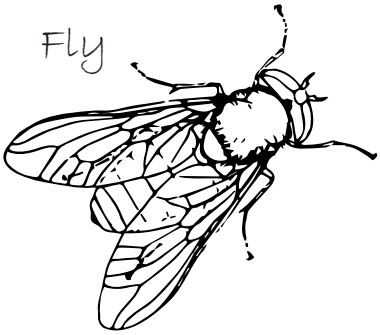
Pollinates bright flowers, often blue or yellow.

Hummingbird



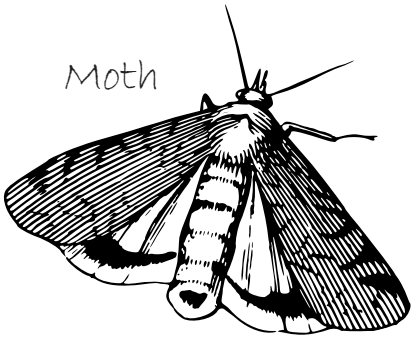
Pollinates tube-shaped flowers.

Fly



Pollinates flowers that smell like rotten meat.

Moth



Pollinates white or yellow flowers that smell sweet.

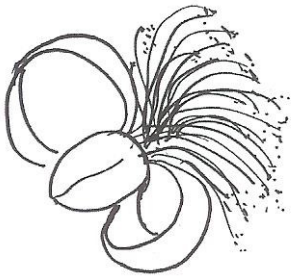
Butterfly

Pollinates brightly colored, sweet-smelling flowers.

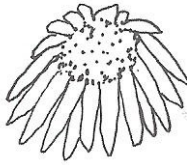
Wind and Water

Pollinates small, odorless flowers from grass and corn.

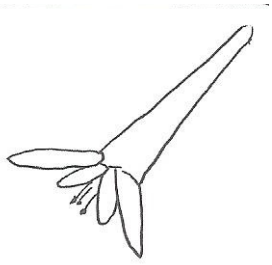
# Pollinator Cards 2



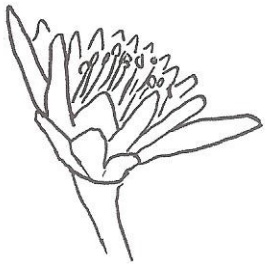
Large, sweet-smelling, white flowers that bloom at night



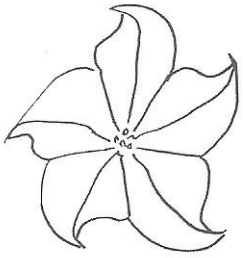
Small white or light green flowers that hang down near the ground and have very little scent



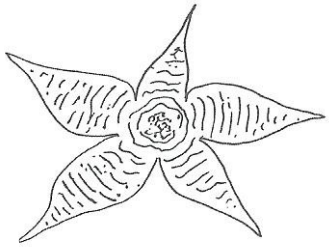
Bright red or yellow flowers with long tube-like shape and very little scent



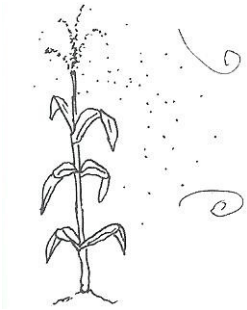
Flowers with sweet smells and showy, bright petals, often blue or yellow



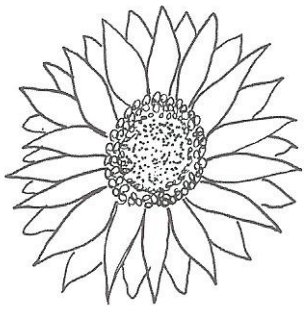
White or yellow flowers with sweet smell



Reddish flowers that smell like rotten meat



Small, odorless flowers with pollen that can get picked up in the wind or float on water



Bright-colored, sweet-smelling flowers