

EXPERIMENT:

Dissect a Flower

Flowers are amazing! Pick a few and explore how they work. Use the diagram on page 36 for reference. Any type of flower will do, but it's nice to do this experiment with a couple of different flower varieties to compare. Daffodils, apple blossoms, and gladiolas work well.

WHAT YOU NEED

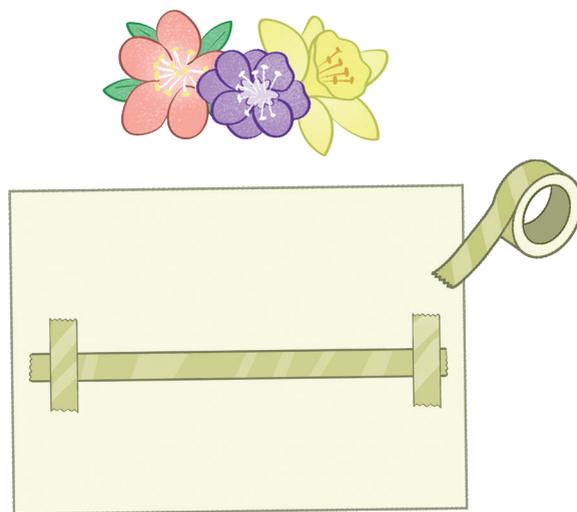
- Tape
- Pencil
- Scissors
- At least two sheets of thick paper—card stock is best, but poster board or cardboard work
- Flowers—at least two samples of any variety.

WHAT YOU DO

STEP 1:

Prepare your collection papers.

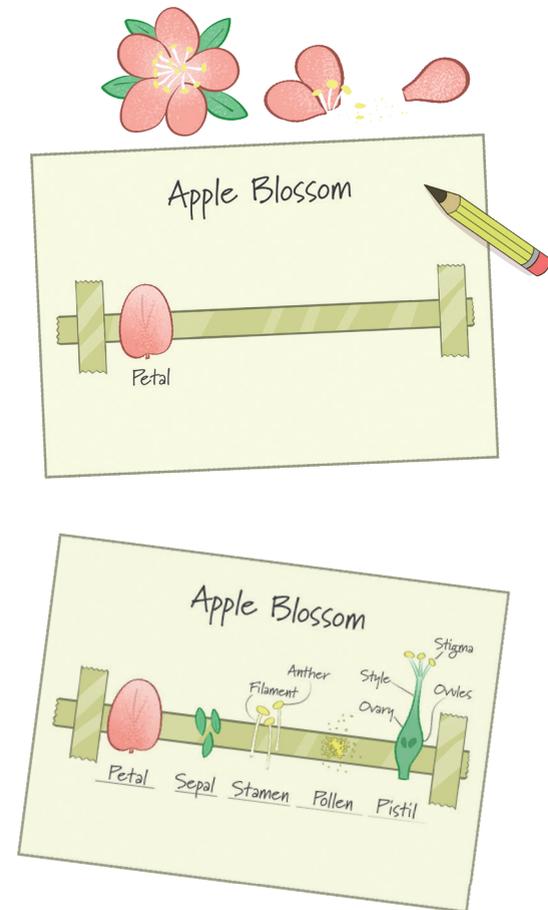
- Take a long piece of tape. Place it sticky side up across the middle of your paper from left to right.
- Use two small pieces of tape to secure it.
- This is your collection paper. Make one for each flower you are planning to examine.



STEP 2:

Take the flowers apart.

- At the top of your collection page, write the name of the flower.
- Pull off the petals. Look at them closely and place one on the tape on the far left side of the collection paper. Label this “petal.”
- Find the sepal, pull it off, and place it on the collection paper next to the petal. Label this “sepal.”
- Find the stamens, pull them off, and place one on the collection paper. Label this “stamen” and add “anther” and “filament.”
- Find the pollen and stick some on your paper. Label this “pollen.”
- Find the pistil, carefully cut it in half lengthwise, and place one half on the collection paper, cut side out. Add “pistil,” “stigma,” “style,” “ovary,” and “ovules” labels.



STEP 3:

Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the other kinds of flowers you have selected. How do the flowers compare? Are the parts easy to identify?

