

Beautiful Blooms

"April showers bring May flowers." We have probably all said that a time or two. Have you



seen any of the May flowers? If you have been walking in the woods, you may have noticed that the spring wildflowers are already starting to finish their lifecycle. Why? — because the leaves are emerging on the trees and the sunlight can no longer

reach the ground. These are called Spring Ephem-



erals, flowers that are only around for a short time. They sprout, bloom, get pollinated, produce seeds, and complete their life cycle in a matter of weeks.



The variety of colors that we see in flowers also contributes to the variety in pollinators. Bees however do not see red and look for blues and ultraviolet hues that are not

even detected by the human eye. The photo here represents how a human (top) might see the



flower vs. a bee (bottom). Butterflies and birds tend to be attracted to the reds and yellows.

Nighttime brings out the moths and bats that are seeking white or pale-colored flowers as their source of nectar and food.



Scent and shape of the flowers also play a role in pollination. Flies prefer a putrid scent which is why they are attracted to such flowers as skunk cabbage. If the flower is shaped for an insect or bird that doesn't feed while



flying, it needs a "landing pad" while flowers that are pollinated by flying insects or birds often



hang down. Then while the insect feeds on the nectar, pollen is dispersed on wings, feet, bodies, or antenna and shared with another flower on the next visit.

We can't forget that wind plays an important role in pollination for many grasses. Since they are not worried about attracting a pollinator, they tend to be green.



Books about Blooms

Here are some books to help exploring salamanders.

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

Sunflower House by Eve Bunting

Jack's Garden by Henry Cole

Fletcher and the Spring-time Blossoms by Julia Rawlinson

Grandma's Purple Flowers by Adjoa J. Burrowes

What Does Bunny See: a Book of Colors and Flowers by Linda Sue Park

The Reason for a Flower by Ruth Heller

Flower Garden by Eve Bunting

In My Flower by Sara Gillingham & Lorena Siminovich

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Beautiful Blooms Activities and Crafts

Cupcake Liner Flowers



You can use a variety of colors and patterns of cupcake liners as the base for the flowers. Use a variety of materials to fill in the center of the flower. Be creative! Add leaves and stems.

Painting with Flowers

Items needed are liquid watercolors, cardstock, and fresh flowers (or artificial if you so choose). Simply dip the flowers into a shallow dish of liquid watercolor, you can paint with them. Using many different flowers will give you many different patterns and textures.

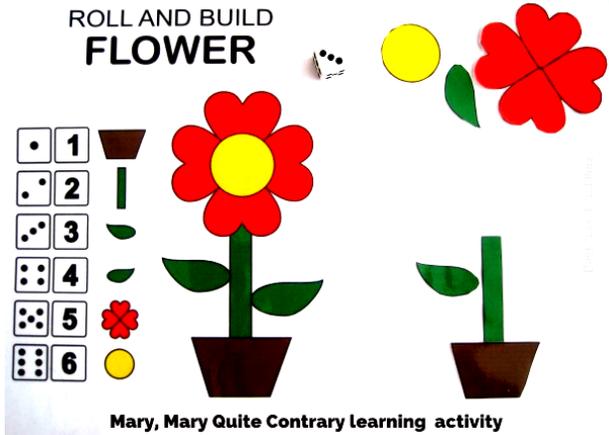


Flowers & Colors Experiments

Here is an experiment that can be done over a few days. Using cups or vases, add food color and a white carnation that has been freshly cut. Over a day or two, as the carnation absorbs water, the colors will start to appear in the petals.



ROLL AND BUILD FLOWER



Activities for Further Learning and Fun

Blooms Songs and Poems

I'm a Little Daisy

(tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a little daisy,
Tall and slim. (*Stand on tiptoes.*)
Here are my petals, (*Place hands on top of head and wiggle fingers.*)
Here is my stem. (*Hold arms down clothes to body.*)
When the sun comes up, (*Make sun with arms.*)
And the rain comes down, (*Flutter hands and fingers to floor.*)
I grow, grow, grow--
up from the ground! (*Slowly raise up bring hand over head.*)

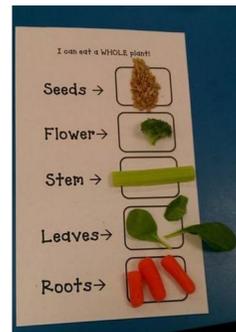


Five Little Flowers

(tune of "Itsy Bitsy Spider")

Five little flowers (*hold up five fingers*)
Standing in the sun
See their heads nodding (*make fingers nod*)
One by one. (*make fingers bow*)
Out comes the sun (*make sun with arms above head*)
Down falls the rain, (*flutter fingers downward*)
And the five little flowers
Lift their heads again! (*hold up five fingers*)

Exploring Blooms with Snacks



Often when we ask children if they eat plants, the immediate answer is an emphatic, "NO!" Here is an idea for snack that allows them to explore what parts of a plant they are actually eating. They can even express their opinion as to whether they like it or not.

Using a variety of foods, let the kids be creative and design their own flowers. Ingredients may include cucumber slices, sliced strawberries, blueberries, orange segments, pita triangles and dip, apple slices, cereal or whatever you wish! For ideas, visit



10 Healthy Flower Snacks for Kids

www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/flower-snacks-discover-and-explore.html