



Activities

September
Fun Flowers

Flowers are uniquely beautiful and have their own special way of spreading their seeds. Check out the following activities to see how each plant moves!

Activity 1: How are seeds made? Learn the different parts of a flower.

Activity 2: Plants on the move! How do different plants spread their seeds?

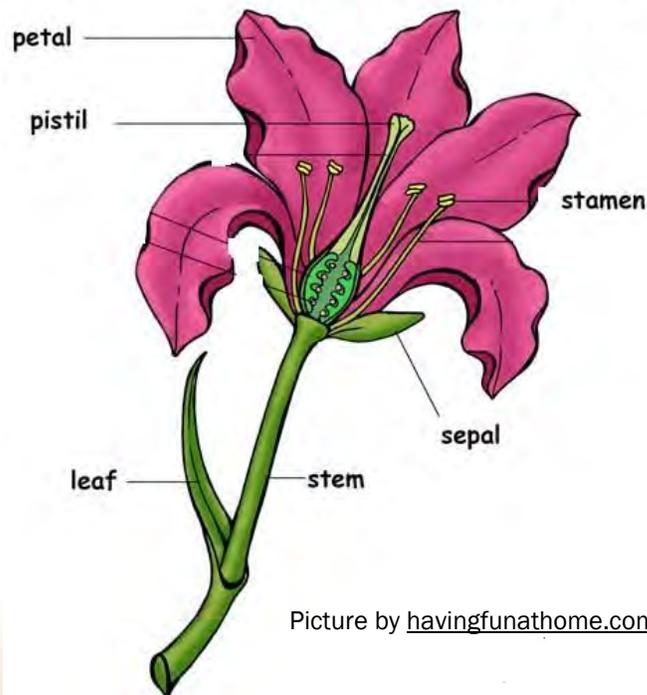
Activity 3: Go out to a McHenry County Conservation District site and go on a wildflower scavenger hunt!

Activity 1: Where are the seeds?

Read the following paragraph of how a seed is made and then see if you can match the terms to their definitions on the following page.

For a seed to be made, first the flower needs brightly colored **petals** so it can attract a **pollinator** like a bee or a butterfly to carry the **pollen**, that sits on the **stamen** of the flower to other flowers. The pollen sticks to the sticky **stigma** of the other flowers and travels down the **pistil** to where the eggs are stored in the **ovary**. Once the egg is fertilized, the seeds are produced. The seeds then need to find their way away from the parent plant through different ways.

The Parts of the Flower



Picture by havingfunathome.com





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Activity 1: Where are the seeds?

Can you match the right words to the right definition?
Refer back to page 1 if you need help!

___ Pollinator

___ Stigma

___ Ovary

___ Stamen

___ Pollen

___ Pistil

___ Petals

A. The place where the pollen sits, waiting to be carried away

B. The powdery yellow bits that are carried away by pollinators

C. The sticky part of the flower that the pollen sticks to

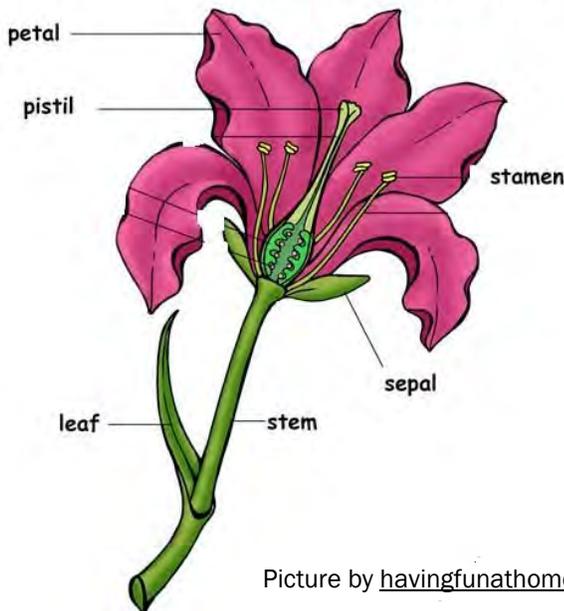
D. The part of the plant that contains the ovary

E. An animal that carries pollen from one flower to another

F. The place where the eggs are stored

G. The brightly colored part of the plant to attract pollinators

The Parts of the Flower



Picture by havingfunathome.com

Answer Key: Pollinator - E; Stigma - C; Ovary - F; Stamen - A; Pollen - B; Pistil - D; Petal - G





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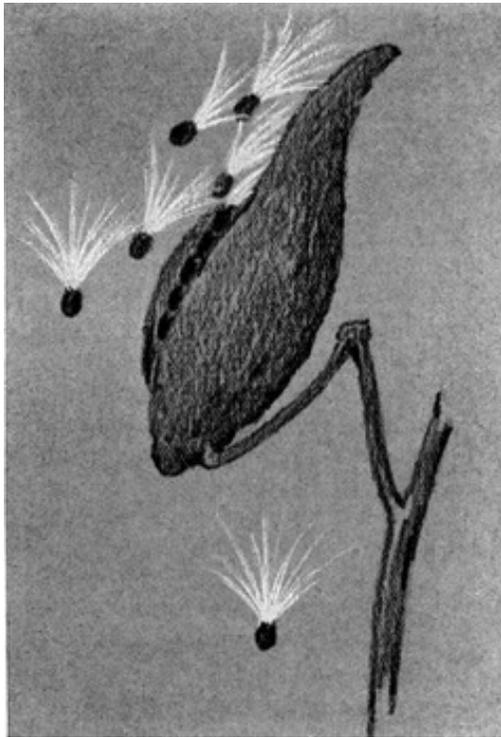
Activity 2 Plants on the Move!

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Conduct different experiments to see how some plants spread their seeds to make more plants!

FLYERS

Some plants make their seeds be able to “fly” away from the parent plant. These are seeds that are light and have some type of “wings” to help them spread. Great examples of this are Milkweed seeds and maple tree seeds. Watch this YouTube video to learn how to make your own “helicopter seed”!



Watch this YouTube video to learn how to make your own “helicopter seed”!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Vk-gXwHDSM>





POPPERS

Some plants keep their seeds in pods. These pods will build up pressure over time. When enough pressure is built up, the pods will “explode” or pop open and shoot their seeds away from the parent plant. Try this experiment to see firsthand how “Poppers” spread their seeds! Jewelweed and Witch-hazel are excellent examples of “poppers”.

****THIS EXPERIMENT SHOULD BE DONE OUTSIDE!**

Materials Needed: Balloon, seeds, thumbtack



1) Take the balloon (the seed pod) and stretch out the mouth piece. This will make it easier to get the seeds into the balloon.



2) Drop a small amount of seeds into the balloon.



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Activity 2: Plants on the Move!

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3) Blow the balloon up as much as you can and tie a knot so the air does not escape. This is to represent the seed pod building up pressure!



4) Take a thumbtack and pop the balloon! The seeds will go flying out just like they do when a seed pod pops and sends the seeds flying!



This picture shows a Jewelweed seedpod before and after it popped to spread its seeds.





McHenry County Conservation District

Lost Valley Nature Detectives

Activity 3: Scavenger Hunt!

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Head out to one of the McHenry County Conservation District's conservation areas and see how many late wildflowers you can find blooming!

____ Purple Coneflower



____ Common Milkweed



____ Queen Anne's Lace



Photo by C.Leslie Hanson on Flickr





___ Wild Grape



Photo by Herman Glethoorn on Flickr

___ Cup Plant



___ Jewelweed

