The Role of a Flower

Grade: 5th

Season: Spring or Fall

Larger IGS Unit: Gardens

Essential Question: Where do seeds come from?

Objective: By acting out and dissecting flowers, students understand the importance of flowers in plant reproduction and seed production.

Materials: perfect flowers (with both male and female parts) to dissect, flower role play cards, white paper, glue sticks, hand lenses

Introduction: What are flowers? What do plants need them for? Do you think plants interact with other living things? We are going to examine the parts of the flower to understand their jobs.

Activity 1: Flower role play
- Start from the center. Where should we start?
- Pistil holds stigma. Stamens hold up anthers.
- Circle of petals.
- Circle of sepals.
- Close up flower. Pistil squats down. Stamens squat down. Petals form bud. Sepals protect petals
- Flex back. Petals – what’s your job?
- Anthers up with pollen in them. release!
- Bees look for nectar. What are you bumping into?
- Petals float away.
- Stamens shrivel. Sepals shrink to base. But this pistil is still here.
- Pollen bores holes to get down into the ovary -> Fertilizes them to make fruit
- Each ovule needs a speck of pollen to become a seed. -> The fruit (ovary) will swell -> then what happens?

Activity 2: Give each student a flower and have them make as detailed a drawing as possible. How many parts do they see? Have them use the hand lens to magnify parts.
• Have students look for depressions at base of petals filled with sugary solution called nectar.
• Ask students to dissect flowers: As they carefully take apart their flower, they can glue each piece onto their picture.
• Did you find anything resembling seeds or eggs?
• Show the students a drawing of the flower. Go over the names for the parts and have students label their drawings.

Wrap up: What do flowers do for the plant? What is pollination? What plant parts are involved in pollination? If a bee helps pollinate a plant, does it help the bee or the flower? Do all plants have flowers?
  o Explore weirdo flowers

Extensions: Seed saving