



Home/Garden Connection

A Post-Visit Lesson to *Flowers: More Than a Pretty Face*

Dear Parents,

Your child visited the Missouri Botanical Garden today and participated in a garden class called, “Flowers: More Than a Pretty Face.” During their field trip, your child:

- Dissected an Alstroemeria flower.
- Labeled the parts of an Alstroemeria flower which include the petals, the anther, the filament, the stamen, the stigma, the style, the ovary, the ovules, and the pistil.
- Learned how pollination affects flower fertilization.
- Compared the parts of the flower from an apple tree with the parts of an apple from an apple tree.
- Created a list of pollinators found in nature.
- Observed and identified different flowers and flower parts throughout the garden.
- Conducted bee and butterfly behavior observations.
- Planted marigold seeds to take care of at home.

Math: Family Flower Survey

Go for a “flower walk” with your family. Give each person a pencil and a piece of paper to use for your survey. Then, head outside into the great outdoors!

1. As you are walking, look for different flowers to investigate in your neighborhood.
2. Decide as a family to count something about each flower that you see. For example, you could count how many kinds of each color you find or you could count how many petals are on different types of flowers or you could keep track of how many different pollinators you see during your walk.
3. Keep a tally of what you see on your paper.
4. When you have finished your “flower walk”, come together as a family to share your results. You could create a graph of your results or you could calculate percentages comparing what you found.

As an extension, you and your family could repeat the walk in a different place and compare your findings. Or you could even repeat your same walk later in the season to see how your findings have changed.

Art: Design a Flower

Now that you understand the parts of a flower and how they reproduce, you and your family could work together to design models of flowers that are pollinated in various ways.

Gather up some simple art materials such as colored paper, crayons, and markers, and let your imagination soar! You could create a flower that mimics the look of an insect in order to attract other insects for pollination. Or you could design a flower that solely relies on humans for pollination. Maybe, you could create a flower that is pollinated by wind or water.

When everyone has finished their flower design, take turns presenting your new creations. Proudly display your flower garden for all to see!



Language Arts: Flower Limericks

Using your flower experience at the Missouri Botanical Garden, you and your family should try creating some flower limerick poetry of your own.

A limerick is a funny little poem containing five lines. It has a very distinctive rhythm and rhyme pattern. The last words of the first, second, and fifth lines all rhyme with each other. The first, second, and fifth lines all have a three beat rhythm pattern, and the third and fourth lines have a two beat rhythm pattern. Look at the examples below to get an idea of how limerick rhythm and rhyme should be written:

There was an old man from Peru,
Who dreamed he was eating his shoe.
He awoke in the night
With a terrible fright,
And found out that it was quite true.

There once was a young girl named Jill.
Who was scared by the sight of a drill.
She brushed every day
So her dentist would say,
“Your teeth are so perfect; no bill.”