

Flower Lab Pre-Trip Activities

To prepare your students for the investigations they will do on site, we recommend doing these activities prior to your visit.

A Flower From Memory

Purpose: To discover what the students know about flower parts

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencils

Steps:

1. Share with the students that to prepare for the field trip, they will show what they know about flower parts.
2. Ask the students to draw a flower from memory. Allow the students to share their drawing with another student and add any parts they missed on their drawing.
3. (Optional) Store the drawings to compare with post-trip drawings.

Flower Focus

Purpose: To familiarize students with flowers and to observe similarities in flowers

Materials:

- Assorted flowers—1 per student (one per pair also works)
- Paper
- Pencils

Steps:

1. Share with the students that to prepare for the field trip, they will begin observing flowers.
2. Put a flower and two pieces of paper on different desks.
3. Have each pair of students observe the flower for 1 minute and write down a descriptive word or phrase. Be sure the students cover up their responses with the extra paper.
4. Each pair should visit at least half the flowers and add to the growing list.
5. Before collecting the descriptive lists, number each one and keep a master list for yourself. Randomly pass a sheet to the students and have them match the description to the flower.
6. Discuss the similarities from the descriptive lists. How are the flowers alike?

Literature Connections

The Reason for a Flower by R. Heller, *This is the Sunflower* by L. Schaefer, *A Flower Grows* by K. Robbins

Flower Lab Post-Trip Activities

These activities will build upon the learning experiences from the field trip. We recommend doing these activities after your visit.

Flowers from the Garden

Purpose: To assess what the students know about flower parts

Materials:

- Flower seeds in pots from the Garden

1. Have the students take care of their flower seeds from the Garden.
2. When the flowers bloom, have the students dissect one flower. Does this flower have all the same parts as the flower they dissected at the Garden? If needed, they can refer back to their journals for the flower parts.
3. (Optional) Turn this project into a mini-science experiment. Some possible research questions are: How many days will it take for the first leaf to grow? The first flower to bloom? The students can each make a prediction and record their results.

Review A Flower From Memory

Purpose: To assess what the students know about flower parts

Materials:

- Pencil
- Paper
- The pre-trip flower drawing

Steps:

1. Share with the students that to they will get to show what they now know about flower parts.
2. Ask the students to draw a flower from memory. Allow the students to share their drawing with another student and add any parts they missed on their drawing.
3. If time permits, students can compare this drawing with the pre-trip drawing. How many flower parts do they know now? They can also write a few reflective sentences about what they learned on the field trip.

Literature Connections

The Reason for a Flower by R. Heller, *This is the Sunflower* by L. Schaefer, *A Flower Grows* by K. Robbins