

Garden Terrace

Ages 2-6

Here are some fun projects to do At Home all about plants and seeds...

At the Museum, you can step outside into our Garden Terrace exhibit to see plants like vegetables growing with roots visible through windows, play with musical instruments made of natural materials, and explore the properties of water with the hand pump and water painting easels. For now, we're staying at home - but you can use this guide and some every day materials to learn about plants and start your own garden!

Look

Let's investigate the parts of a flower! Go outside with a grown up and pick some flowers. Tulips, daffodils and irises work best, but you can also use dandelions. Once you have your flower you can use scissors or a plastic knife to separate the parts of the flower. Label the parts (see attached sheet).

Count all of the parts. How many petals and leaves does your flower have? Are there seeds? How long is the stem? If you have a magnifying glass at home, take a closer look!

Create

Leaf Rubbings

Materials:

Leaves
White Paper
Crayons

With a grown up, collect leaves of different sizes and interesting textures. Once collected cover a leaf with white paper and using the side of your crayon, gently rub the crayon on the area over the leaf. What's happening? As you do this you will see the shape and textures of your leaf appear on the paper. Repeat this process with different leaves using different colors to create a unique picture!

POET'S TREE

Underneath the poet tree
Come and rest awhile with me,
And watch the way the word-web weaves
Between the shady story leaves.
The branches of the poet tree
Reach from the mountains to the sea.
So come and dream, or come and climb -
Just don't get hit by falling rhymes.
- Shel Silverstein

More Resources

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle
Leaf Man by Lois Elhert

Visit: National Geographic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6Uw2DJ9Md8> to see a gorgeous time lapse video of flowers blooming



Do

All plants produce seeds so that new ones can grow. Let's compare different types of seeds in fruits and vegetables. Parents/caregivers grab some fruits and vegetables with different types of seeds (E.g. avocado, strawberry, cucumber, or squash)

First: Find the seeds! Wash and pat dry fruits and vegetables. Cut each food in half to expose the seed(s). Are the seeds inside or outside the food? Observe the seeds before removing them.

Then: Explore the seeds! Remove the seeds from the foods. How easy is it to remove the seeds? Compare the sizes, shapes and colors and weight of the seeds. How do they feel? Match each food to its seed(s).

Act

Pretend you are a seed. (Curl up on your knees and get low to the ground.)

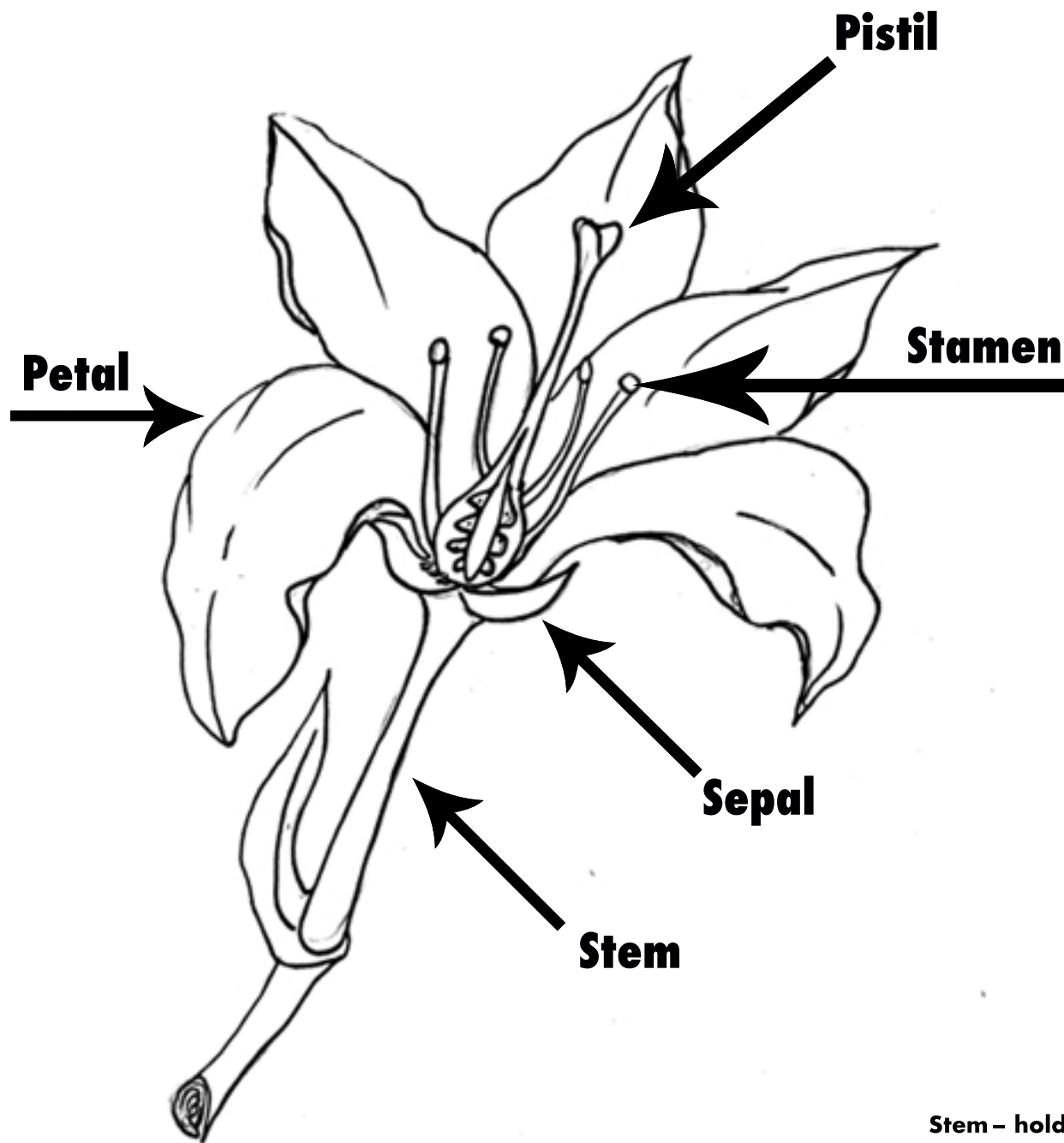
Now you are being watered and your roots are sprouting. (Stretch your legs and wiggle your toes!)
Your stem is beginning to grow big and tall. (Slowly stand up)
Your petals have bloomed! (Lift your arms up high)
The wind is blowing and the sun is shining. (Sway side to side and smile wide!)



For more At Home! activities and information about our exhibits visit us at
sichildrensmuseum.org

1000 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island NY 10301

Parts of a Flower



Key

Stem – holds up the flower

Sepals- outermost ring of flower parts – (protect the bud)

Petals-next ring of flower parts (colors attract pollinators like butterflies and bees)

Stamens- next ring of flower parts which produce and hold the pollen., Made up of a filament (the stem), anther (the canoe-shaped structure at the tip that holds the pollen), and pollen (the tiny grains on the anthers)

Pistil- at the center, may be one or more – act as catcher for pollen, container for the ovule(s). Pistil is made up of the vase-like ovary, the stem-like style, and the sticky stigma at the top of the style