



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

**GSA- JUNIORS (4th- 5th)
FLOWERS-Legacy Naturalists
For spring 2012**

There's more to flowers than good looks:

- a. Without them, plants can not make seeds
- b. World would be drier (less shade, more evaporation)

Step 1 Science of one Flower

- * A flower uses roots to pull water & mineral food (vitamins) from the soil. Plants have "water pipes", phloem, to pull this water throughout the plant.
- * Flower Hunt. Find 5-6 flowers and ID to name them. Use a magnifying glass to see more. Sketch what you see.
- * Show parts of a flower.

Step 2 Look under the Petals- (*need sunny, warm day*)

- * Flowers don't look like they are doing anything, but they are busy.
- Stop and Smell the Flowers. Find a flower that smells. Watch it until something happens. Jot notes about what visits the flower. How long did it take for something to visit? Based on your observations, why do you think flowers smell?
- Research: find out what makes a flower smell and use the info to make your own perfume.

*** Dye a flower (* Option For rainy, cold day*)**

See a flower's root system in action by coloring white flower (*carnation). Cut stem and put flower in water that contains food dye. Keep track of experiment in notebook.

Step 3 Flowers Help People:

* Flowers are fruits in disguise. A flower eventually becomes a fruit. (Apple grows from an apple blossom. Look for wild fruits.

Sometimes even the flower is edible! (Hibiscus & chamomile tea) (Can eat nasturtium & zucchini blossoms).

- Witch hazel- astringent for cuts & insect bites
- Horsemint- (Monarda citriodora) insect repellent
- Mexican Hat & Indian Blanket- stomach ache