

LESSON No. 8



FLOWER

Flower is the most beautiful and attractive part of a plant. It helps in the reproduction of plants. It contains either male or female or both the reproductive elements. All the seed bearing plants produce flowers.

Some of the plants which bear flowers are rose, jasmine, mango, guava, bougainvillea, lotus, lily, orchid, etc. These plants produce flowers only at sometimes of the year. Some flowers hardly produce seed e.g. orchids. They grow on the branches of trees.



Flowers have many different shapes, sizes and colours. Some flowers are highly coloured and showy e.g. sunflower. Others are dull - coloured and may be minute and could hardly be seen, e.g. flowers of grasses.

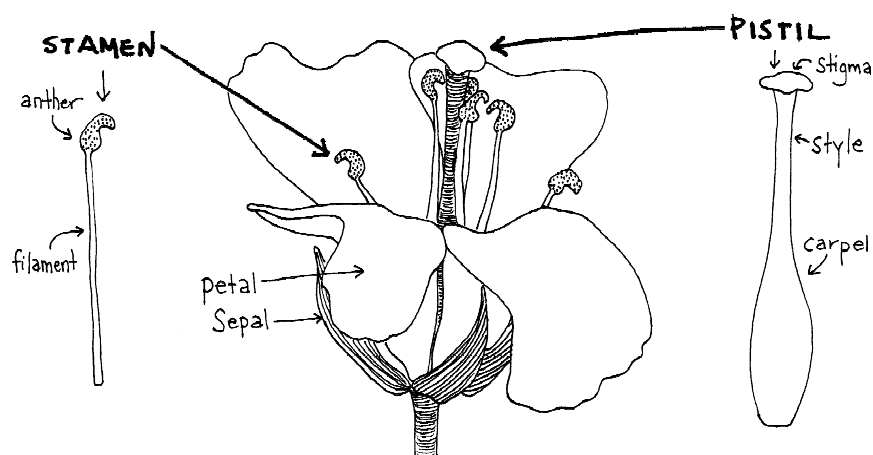
PARTS OF A FLOWER

A flower has four main parts or whorls of floral members - **calyx**, **corolla**, **stamens** and **carpels**. A flower is said to be a complete flower when the four whorls are present together. The calyx is the outermost whorl composed of sepals. It protects the flower in its young bud stage. A bud is a flower or a leaf that is not completely open.

Inside the **sepals**, is the corolla which is composed of **petals**. Mostly petals are brightly coloured and mainly meant for attraction of insects for

pollination. Some flowers have many petals and some have a few.

Inside the corolla are the stamens. Stamens have parts of lower stalk portion and anthers containing pollens at the top. Mostly in the centre of the flowers, there are **carpels**. Each is made up of a **stigma**, **style** and **ovary**. **Ovules** or eggs are present inside the ovary. During pollination, pollen grains are transferred to the **stigma**.



Different parts of a flower

Plants also produce a sugary liquid called nectar which attracts the bees. As they fly from flower to flower they transfer the pollen grains to the stigma. The transfer of pollen from the stamen to the stigma is **pollination**. The pollen may be transferred by wind, insects, birds and other animals.

Aroma of Flowers

A flower has a fragrance or aroma. This scent is due to the presence of essential oil in the petals. Flowers produce scent to attract pollinators. Insects use the scent of flower as a direction - finder.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CLASS- IV

Uses of Flowers

1. Flowers can be used as food e.g. Cauliflower and Plantain. Many other flowers are cooked as vegetables. We use to fry the flowers of Nongmangkha mixed with other vegetables. Flowers of mustard is used in making chutney.



Cauliflower

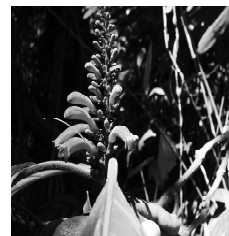


Plantain flower

2. Flowers are also used as **medicine**. Rose petals are used to make rose oil and rose water.



Rose water is used as medicine. Flowers of Nongmangkha is used as medicine by local people.



3. Flowers are used for **decorative purposes**.
4. Flowers are also used as **dye**. Certain flowers like saffron is used as a dye, in cosmetics.



Depictions

Collect different varieties of flower and make a bouquet and keep it in your drawing room or present it to your class teacher.



Gardens



Bouquets



Ladies selling flowers

4. Nowadays, people sell flowers in the markets. Those people who sell flowers are called **florists**. The branch of science which deals with plantation, processing and production of ornamental flowering plants is termed as **floriculture**.

Flowers are sold in different forms as garlands, as bouquets or as single flower. Rose and marigold are used in garlands. Lotus, lily, champaka, etc. are sold as single flowers. Potted flowering plants are also sold by nursery growers. Mostly ladies used to sell flowers in marketplaces of Manipur.

During the days of festival, garlands and single flowers of lotus, lily, etc. are costly. Flowers are useful in many purposes. Children should not pluck flowers. We should visit the gardens to see the beautiful and attractive flowers in holidays.

Think and answer the following

- I am colourful and showy flower. Tell me, who am I? _____.
- My flower is used as vegetable. What do you call me? _____.
- I used to pollinate flowers. What is my name? _____.
- Flowers produce a sweet juice to make honey. Name it. _____.
- I am a flower grower. People called me with a particular name. What is it? _____.
- My flower is used in making garlands ? Who am I? _____.