

MUCH TO DO ABOUT GARDENING WITH YOUTH

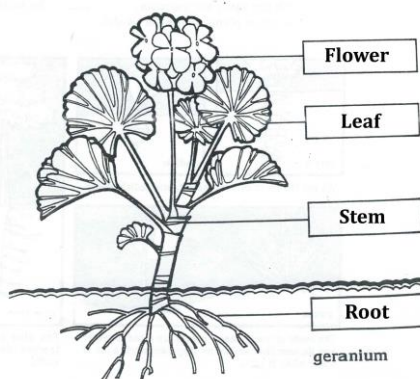
Dig, Plant and Grow with These Youth Gardening Resources: A Brief Lesson in Plant Science

Flowering plants follow a specific life cycle:

- ❖ **Seed.** They begin their lives as seeds. Seeds are baby plants. They have an outer shell that protects the seed embryo inside.
- ❖ **Germination.** The seed ends up on the ground. It needs air, water and soil to grow. When a seed begins to grow, this is called germination. The first sign of life appears above the soil; this is called a sprout or seedling.
- ❖ **Mature Plant.** The seedling continues to grow into a full, mature plant with leaves, roots and stems.
- ❖ **Flowering.** The mature plant will grow flowers. Through pollination, the flowers produce seeds. When the seeds end up on the ground, the cycle begins again.



Flowers are the reproductive organs of the plant. The main structures of a flower include:



- ❖ **Sepal.** Support system for the petal, typically green and helps protect and hold up the petal. All sepals together = the calyx.
- ❖ **Petal.** The bright, colorful leaves of the flower, often bright and colorful to attract insects that help with pollination. All petals together = the corolla.
- ❖ **Stamen.** Part of flower that produces pollen. Two main parts = filament and anther.
- ❖ **Filament.** The stalk that holds the anther.
- ❖ **Anther.** Made up of lobes that attach to the filament. Lobes hold sacs that contain pollen.
- ❖ **Pistil.** The female part of flower; contains the carpel and stigma.
- ❖ **Stigma.** Area where pollen is received and may be located at end of stalk, called style.
- ❖ **Carpel.** Ovary of the flower and contains ovules that are potential seeds.
- ❖ **Fruits.** A way for many plants to spread seeds. Fruits form after the flower is fertilized with pollen. Ovules in pistil will become seeds and the flower becomes fruit.
- ❖ **Seed.** Embryo of plant and sort of like a baby plant. Seeds dispersed by air, water and animals.
- ❖ **Pollination.** To become a seed, ovary must receive pollen. Insects and birds move pollen from plant to plant – creates seeds.

Until next thyme, enjoy coaching and guiding youth in the garden.

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