

ART + SCIENCE

VISUAL ARTS AND SCIENCE PROJECTS FOR KIDS

PROJECT 2: DRAWN TO FLOWERS



Created by Janet Scudder for The Umbrella
Questions, Comments, Suggestions for Future Projects?
Contact us: Education@TheUmbrellaArts.org



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DISCOVER YOUR ARTS

ART AND SCIENCE BOTH NEED SHARP EYES!

It's all about **observation!**

This project has two parts:

First Part: Creating observed drawings and models of Plants.

(Second Part will be creating observed drawings and models of Insects....that one is for next week)

Summer is on us. Get ready to use your eyes.



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1

MATERIALS



Pencils, color pencils and/or markers

Paper

Large drawing paper is great but if all you have is printer paper that's great too.

Scissors

Glue

Colored paper, painted or colored papers, (paint or color on both sides), cut magazine scraps, etc.

Cardboard circles

Green "Starbucks" straws, green-painted dowels, or bamboo skewers or green chenille stems (aka: pipe cleaners)



Need Materials?

While The Umbrella encourages shopping with local art supply establishments, you can also conveniently and safely order materials online for delivery at [DickBlick.com](https://www.dickblick.com), with a portion of the proceeds going back to support The Umbrella!



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THE SKETCH

Find a Flower (pick one you like).

A live one in the garden or a good photograph, or large good picture from an art book or online.

Look at some pictures that other artists have drawn or painted. Try to get one that shows you most of the plant. Blossom. Leaves. Stem.

Take some time and look carefully.

What shapes do you see?

What colors? What shades of the same color? Is the stem straight or bent?

How big is the flower?

Can you see the center?



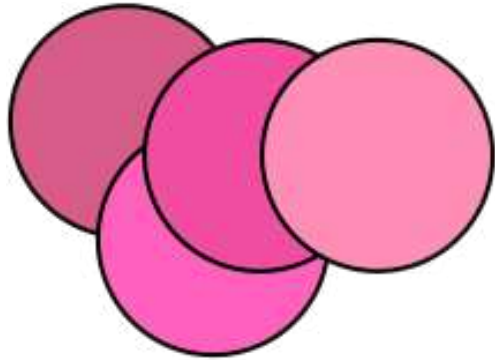
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How many petals are there? 4? 6? Too many?
Do they attach in a neat circle or overlap? Curl
or pile on top of each other?

Is there one flower per stem or are there
many?

How does the flower attach to the stem? Is it
facing you? Or facing up? Down?



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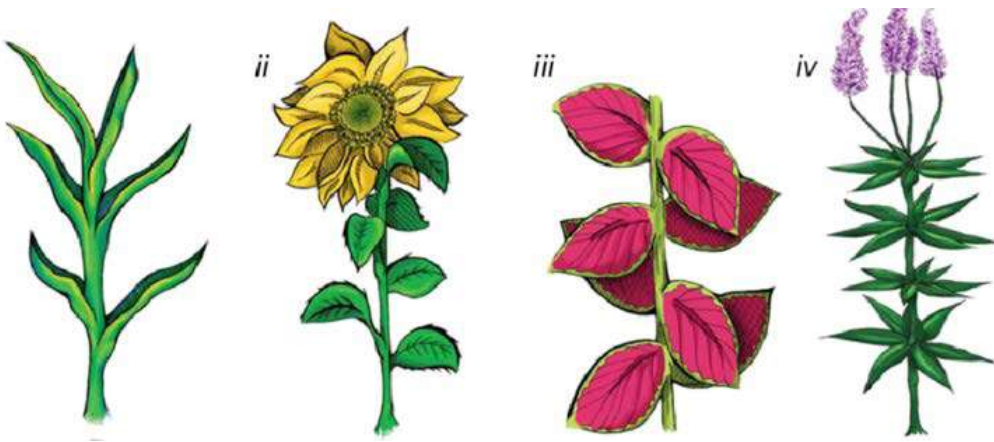
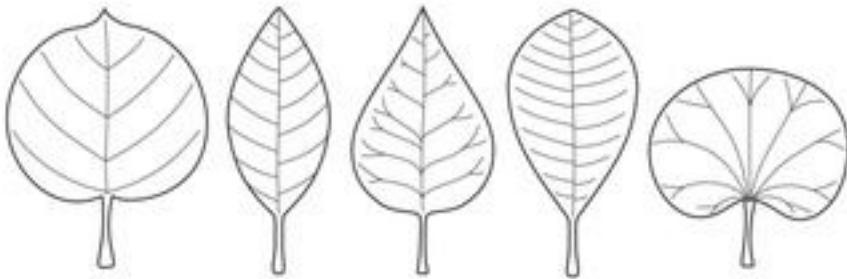
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Can you see leaves? What shape are they?

Are they jagged or smooth?

If you can see them on the stem how do they attach?



Is the flower wilting, or not all the way open yet?

Does it stand up straight or is it so heavy it bends its stem?

Can you see speckles, spots or lines? Do they go in straight lines or curve?



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Look for five whole minutes before you draw.

Make a plan before you even pick up the pencil.

You can even trace the lines you're about to draw out with your finger first before you make a mark. (This may look silly but nobody will see you so who cares?)

This is about being specific to how this flower looks right here, right now.

Use just pencil or add color, whatever helps you fix it in your memory.



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3

THE MODEL



Artists and scientists also created models of plants and flowers for study and as sculptures. A model can be seen from all directions.

They used wax, paper, clay...even glass!



You may have been to the Harvard Natural History Museum in Cambridge and seen the glass flower models there.



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Gather materials for your model flower. Think about what shapes and textures you'll need to re-create your flower in 3D:

Colored paper

You need to cut shapes for your blossoms or leaves. You can paint, color or draw on them.

Thick cardboard circle

To act as a base. Circles are easier to cut if you just cut a square and then trim off the corners.

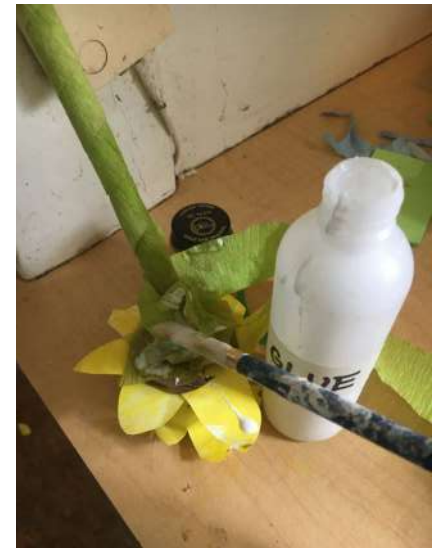
Green straw, wire or painted sticks

For your stem.

Paper cups or tubes, straws, toothpicks, yarn, tape.

Sandpaper can be colored with a crayon or oil pastel to look like pollen. Strips of paper rolled around a pencil make good vines.

Wood, plain cardboard or unwaxed paper can be painted or colored with markers, crayons or pastels. Paint and glue don't stick well to plastic-y materials but if you coat them in glue and wrap them around with them colored paper you can get cool effects.



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Scabious flower

A kind of daisy-looking blossom. Usually bluish.



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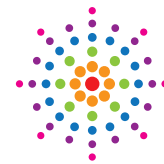
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Beach Rose



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Daffodil

Look carefully and make a plan. Don't rush. Science and Art both require patience.

Use lots of glue. You may need to prop things up while they dry and let one part dry before you can attach another.



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When everything is dry place your flower (or flowers) in a jar or vase.

They'll stay fresh for our next project.



Next time: Insect Engineering!



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